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PM to brief inner cabinet on Hussein meeting

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The inner cabinet is expected to receive a detailed report today from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his secret summit in Eilat on Thursday with Jordan's King Hussein.

Netanyahu's aides would not comment on what was discussed at the meeting.

According to Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali, Hussein alerted Netanyahu to the consequences that could result from "obstructing" the peace process.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority have been at loggerheads for the past few months on the depth of the IDF's next pull-back in the West Bank. The Palestinians, with US support, are seeking a withdrawal from 13 percent of the area under Israeli control and Israel is willing to give up 9%.

Speaking after a round of talks with visiting US Defense

Secretary William Cohen, Majali said Israel "has not kept the agreement signed with the Palestinians" and that Hussein warned Netanyahu of the "consequences."

Cohen is due in Israel tomorrow. (See Story, Page 2)

The Jordanian monarch met Netanyahu at Eilat's Orchidea Hotel for two hours in the company of senior Israeli and Jordanian officials.

Among those present was the Mossad's new director, Ephraim Halevy, who was credited with having arranged the rendezvous.

Majali said the peace process was "alive" and showing signs of momentum. He was quoted by Reuters as rejecting the notion harbored by various Arab leaders that it has been killed off by Israeli intransigence.

He expressed hope that US envoy Dennis Ross, who is due to return to the region on Friday, will present American proposals designed to move the process forward.

Blair aims to jumpstart talks

British PM to discuss 'land for peace' with Netanyahu today

By JAY BUSHINSKY

"Injecting a new impetus into the peace process will be central to my visit," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on the eve of his arrival here today for a two-day visit.

Writing in an op-ed article appearing in today's *Jerusalem Post*, Blair said he hopes his visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, due to start this afternoon, will spark new momentum on the stalled Israeli-Palestinian track in the spirit of conciliation that culminated in the recent Northern Ireland agreement.

At the practical level, Blair evidently is anxious to clinch the long-pending agreement with the PA on the launching of a joint industrial zone at Karni on the Gaza Strip's eastern edge and of the projected Dahaniya airport at its southern end.

"Assisting Palestinian economic development would give the peace process a major boost. Opening the Gaza airport and the Gaza industrial estate could make a real difference to this," Blair writes in his article, which also appears in the east Jerusalem *Al-Quds* newspaper today.

Blair's ultimate objective is to prove that the United Kingdom has the influence and negotiating skill to "achieve something or produce some results" during its presidency of the European Union, officials said.

A British observer said that Blair actually will be "wearing two hats," one as his country's leader and the other as head of the EU.

"The ambivalence of his visit is the problem," the observer said. "He wants to advance the peace process and to stabilize Israeli-British relations."

However, Blair was said to have retreated from the position he took upon taking office, when he declared that the Middle East was his No. 1 priority, to a realization that the US has been calling the diplomatic shots in this region and that he had best coordinate with US President Bill Clinton.

Blair said yesterday he would tell Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the government should honor agreements on the withdrawal of troops from the West Bank.

On the second day of his trip to the region, Blair said that, while he hopes new European plans for economic development and investment in Israel and Gaza would help revive the peace process, agreements already in place have to come first.

"It is important that any proposals that are put forward—even though Europe has a particular role in respect of the economic interim issues—that they must include redeployment, because that was what was agreed," Blair told Egyptian Television.

"The first thing we will do is make a very clear restatement of the



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (right) appears Friday in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. (Reuters)

10-year-old drowns two days after making aliya

Ten-year-old Sergei Porpotsky drowned yesterday afternoon near a beach in Bat Yam, two days after immigrating with his parents from the CIS.

He had come to the beach with his father Alexander and other relatives yesterday morning.

According to police, his mother was visiting relatives in Holon, where the family had apparently been staying since their arrival in the country on Thursday.

The Bat Yam police station received a report about a person drowning off the Sea Palace Beach in an area where bathing is banned.

Police and Magen David Adom medics rushed to the site, initially believing that the victim was an adult.

"At first we searched for the body of a man of about 40, and when we couldn't find such a body, we called in a police boat and helicopter," said Dep.-Cmdr. Amir Gur, the commander of police in Bat Yam.

Gur added that during the search, "a man arrived on the beach who turned out to be the boy's father, saying that his son had gotten lost on the beach. He was accompanied by a woman, who translated his words into English."

Gur said he had believed their report had nothing to do with the ongoing search, "because the initial report referred to the body of a man who had drowned."

The police boat had trouble reaching the area of the search because of large rocks that surround the beach. Later a police helicopter launched searches and discovered a body trapped in rocks several meters below the water's surface and about 100 meters from the coast.

Gur said that several attempts were made to rescue the victim. He said that instructions were radioed from the helicopter to rescuers on the beach. When these efforts failed, a lifeguard was called from home, who went out to the spot on a water scooter and brought the body to shore.

The boy was pronounced dead by a Magen David doctor on the beach.

Gur said it had taken an hour and a half to retrieve the body from the time the drowning was reported to police.

He added that two sisters, aged 8 and 10, had drowned off the same beach last year.

Bat Yam Police have reiterated warnings that bathing on the Sea Palace Beach, a dangerous area, is strictly forbidden. (JTM)

Olmert to boycott state dinner

By ELI WOHLGELER and JAY BUSHINSKY

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday sent a note to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying he would not attend the state dinner for British Prime Minister Tony Blair, because Blair said he would not meet with Olmert.

Olmert charged that this was "a deviation from protocol and in sharp contrast with the pattern set by his predecessor, John Major. The Foreign Ministry's efforts ended in failure and I am astounded at this outcome," Olmert said. The mayor accused the government of "giving in."

But political sources indicated that the British leader's staff indicated that a meeting with Olmert would necessitate a concomitant session with the PA's representative in Jerusalem, Faisal Hussein. This evidently prompted British and Israeli officials to conclude that it would be best to leave the Jerusalem municipality off the itinerary.

In protest, Olmert yesterday decided to cancel his participation in the state dinner.

"The rule is that every head of state that comes to Israel must meet with the mayor of Jerusalem," said Haggai Elias, spokesman for the mayor. "It applies to everyone—US President Bill Clinton, Major—everyone, from a big or small state. And that has always been the rule, even under Teddy Kollek."

Olmert wrote Netanyahu that he should respond strongly to the snub of Jerusalem's mayor. "Olmert said he wasn't embarrassed for himself, but for the city of Jerusalem," Elias said.

Elias said Blair's rebuff of Olmert is more severe than the actions last month of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who met Palestinian Legislative Council member Salah Ta'amri at Har Homa on March 17.

Warrant officers shoulder ranks

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Scores of ranks are moving again in the IDF. First they went from the wrist to the collar and on Independence Day they'll be moving from collars to shoulders. After 50 years, all warrant officers and sergeants-major will wear their ranks on their shoulders just like officers.

The decision was taken following complaints that the small collar symbols were hidden half of the year by coats, and when seen were too minute to differentiate. The army also hopes it will boost the morale and image of

non-officer career military men and women.

"I know very senior officers who until today can't tell the difference between a warrant officer and a chief warrant officer, and that's not to mention the younger soldiers," said Lt.-Col. Avi Yifrah, in charge of discipline in Manpower Branch and the main force behind the change.

He said the idea came about after meeting with warrant officers from foreign armies, such as Holland and France.

Warrant officers and sergeants-major once wore their ranks on leather wrist bands, but after years of complaints of skin irritation and degrading appearance, the army decided about a dozen years ago to miniaturize them and move them to collars.

According to the IDF weekly *Bamahane*, once the decision was made to put the ranks on shoulders "it took many months to decide the shape of the ranks so they would not be confused with those of commis-

sioned officers.

The final shape was a "V" with a Star of David and more "Vs" added the higher the rank. There are five warrant officer and sergeants-major ranks in the IDF.

Reaction among the warrant officers themselves appear to be mixed. "It's wonderful. It's simply excellent," Sgt.-Maj. Yael Koren was quoted as saying.

"Until now the ranks were simply embarrassing. They all looked alike and there were many faux pas when it was thought I was a regular soldier. These will be much more comfortable without all those collar pins. It's about time," she said.

But St.-Sgt. Maj. Shai Naveh thinks the whole thing is a waste of money. "I like changes, but these ranks are an entirely marginal thing that shouldn't have been invested in," he said. "Actually, the new ranks have a benefit that they will now be seen better, but now we'll look like some soldiers in the Iraqi Army."

Vatican: No papal visit 'in near future'

By LISA PALMERI-BILIG

ROME — The Vatican's Secretary of Relations between States, Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, dampened expectations of a papal visit to Israel in the near future.

He told reporters that in "today's political context the conditions necessary for a papal visit, 'do not

exist..."

While ruling out a visit "at this moment," he left the future open.

"Let's see what happens in two years. The great dilemma of the Holy Father, said Tauran, is that if he makes a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, instead of being "a symbol of peace" it would "legitimize, consecrate, situations of international injustice."

Tauran, considered the Vatican's "foreign minister," said there was great "frustration among both the Palestinian and Israeli populations regarding the peace process begun in Madrid. They ask what fruits has it brought, and the reply is 'none.'"

He said there was "danger that we are moving toward dramatic developments... that the frustration will lead to irrational reactions. I

think that those responsible politically for the region, from whichever side, and the international community, must be aware of the risks of such deep frustration."

On April 30, Tauran will receive a facsimile copy of the Declaration of Independence at a celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary organized by Israel's Embassy to the Holy Sec.

Politicians converge on Mimouna celebrations

Mimouna celebrations began officially last night in Jerusalem with a ceremony attended by the prime minister, ministers, the chief rabbis, and Knesset members at a hall in the capital's Bayit Vegan section. The ceremony, originally scheduled for the Jerusalem International Conference Center, was moved at the last minute because the municipality had reportedly

failed to rent the space.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak showed up last night at Geshet leader David Levy's Mimouna open house at his Beit She'an home. Both Barak and Levy denied any political significance to the visit, and Levy insisted Barak's appearance was arranged by mutual acquaintances.

Speaking to reporters at

Mimouna festivities shortly after returning from his vacation in Eilat, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joked that, "Sarah and I wanted to examine the Exodus from Egypt from close up." He said one thing the Pessah holiday shows is that "we need unity."

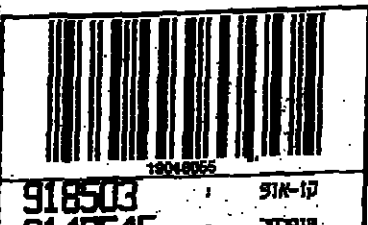
Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was the featured guest of Mimouna celebrations

last night in Yavne, where he and his wife also visited her parents.

Moroccan Charge d'Affaires Talal Ufrani conveyed the best wishes of King Hassan, who said he hopes that next year's Mimouna will also be a celebration of peace.

Mimouna celebrations are to continue throughout the country today.

Sarah Honig and Ilim



US defense secretary arrives here tomorrow for one-day visit

Arrow funding tops Israel's agenda

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
and news agencies

The government plans to present US Secretary of Defense William Cohen on his day-long visit tomorrow with a shopping list of weapons and other modernization needs for the IDF.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is holding strategic consultations with Cohen at his Tel Aviv office, where the secretary is to be received with full military honors.

Defense officials said the working meeting will focus on Israel's long-term modernization plans. High on the agenda will be American funding for the acquisition of a third Arrow anti-ballistic



US Defense Secretary William Cohen is greeted by Jordanian officers yesterday upon his arrival at the Defense Ministry in Amman. (Reuters)

Cohen: US forces to remain in Gulf, Page 5

missile battery in light of the growing missile threat in the region.

Cohen has already promised funding in principle during Mordechai's visit to Washington last month, but defense officials said Israel is trying to put that commitment into action. The cost of the third battery is reportedly about \$150 million, not including funds already approved for manufacturing the missiles.

Mordechai is also expected to push for US commitments to widen strategic cooperation between the two countries, defense sources said. This includes a continued US commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge in weaponry.

Most of the weaponry Israel is seeking from the United States is for the IAF. The United States recently approved the sale to Israel of a Longbow upgrade for its fleet of Apache helicopters. Among the items Israel is seeking are replacements for its aging Boeing 707 passenger and special-mission aircraft. The IAF has also begun its search for its next generation of fighter jets and they will no doubt be American made.

Cohen will be accompanied by his wife, Janet, as well as top Pentagon and administration officials. Cohen will also visit Jerusalem and lay a wreath at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin and visit Yad Vashem. He departs for Greece on Tuesday morning.

This will be the fifth time that Mordechai and Cohen meet, but Cohen's first visit as defense secretary.

Cohen's sweep of the Middle East has brought him to Turkey, Jordan, and Egypt so far. In Amman yesterday, Cohen said Jordan had asked Washington to supply A-10 tank-killing jets to bolster its air force.

The heavily armored A-10 "Warhog" jets operate mainly on low-flying missions and were

used to destroy large numbers of Iraqi tanks in the 1991 Gulf War. They are no longer built and are in the process of being phased out of the US Air Force inventory.

Jordan is due to receive three more F-16s this month in an aid package worth \$320m. It has already taken delivery of 16 used F-16 jets. Cohen did not say if the United States would be able to meet Jordan's request.

"We have indicated our willingness to cooperate in whatever fashion we can, taking into account Jordan's needs and our own assessment of what would be required and the most cost-effective and efficient way of meeting those requirements," he said. He added that the US is "responsive to the security needs of Jordan."

Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Majali said his country, which has distanced itself from its ally and major trading partner Iraq, is hoping for further military and economic aid from the United States.

"Last year we were given \$75 million in military assistance, and this year the same. We hope next year it will go on and possibly will be increasing according to the needs," said Majali, who is also defense minister.

Cohen is to travel to Egypt today and following his visit to Israel will return home via Greece on Tuesday.

Cohen reiterated a call he made in Turkey for international pressure to be maintained on President

Saddam Hussein to meet UN resolutions calling for Iraq to prove it had dismantled all its weapons of mass destruction. But he denied the United States was pressing hard on Iraq while going soft on Israel.

Cohen said the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process could not be equated with "the kind of threat posed by Saddam Hussein in terms of what he actually did, in use of chemical weapons against his own people, against the Iranian people, and the threat he posed by possession of these deadly weapons."

"We are all interested in seeing the peace process move forward. That is going to require the exercise of restraint and the measuring to commitments on both sides," Cohen said.

Arafat promises to declare statehood by next year

By STEVE RODAN
and MOHAMMED HAJIB

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat vowed last night that he would declare statehood next year and implied that the Palestinians could turn to violence if their demands are not met.

"All possibilities are open," he said in an interview broadcast by Palestinian Authority television. "We are not in a hurry. [But] patience is limited. In 1999, we will announce a state."

Arafat, who repeatedly compared the Oslo agreements to Mohammed's temporary cease-fire agreements with his enemies, said Israel has not honored many elements. He said he accepts the unannounced US initiative to advance negotiations, but "with conditions" — that it preserves all commitments made in the Hebron agreements.

This, he said, would include a redeployment in the West Bank within the next few weeks. "The agreement called for redeployment in mid-1998," Arafat said.

Arafat, who said he has excellent personal relations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the PA is willing to make a full effort at stopping terrorism. But he rejected being held responsible for every attack.

"Can anybody get 100 percent security?" he asked. "Can Russia obtain this, or the Arab countries. We will make 100% effort."

Arafat confirmed PA investigation findings that Izzeddin Kassam members killed bombmaker Mubir Sharif. He said he would not allow Hamas to launch revenge attacks against Israel.

"There is an agreement on political pluralism," he said, "not on military pluralism."

Arafat's remarks came as the PA and Hamas agreed on a cease-fire in a war of words regarding responsibility for Sharif's death. Both PA and Hamas representatives said they would no longer issue statements regarding the death.

The initial request came from the PA and yesterday Hamas leaders agreed to stop making accusations against the PA.

The cease-fire came as PA and Hamas representatives began discussing the possible location for a reconciliation dialogue. Among the sites being considered are Cairo and Amman.

Sheik Mahmoud Musleh, a Hamas leader in the Ramallah area, said he has suggested holding the talks in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Musleh, who was arrested in early April by PA security officers, was permitted a visit on Friday with human rights attorney Khader Shkirat on Friday. Shkirat quoted Musleh as saying

that he was not tortured or ill-treated during his nine days in detention in Jericho and Ramallah. He said that both the PA and Hamas have an interest in ending their feud and he would be prepared to arrange a reconciliation.

PA officials said they were ready for such talks. Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus chief Jibril Rajoub said he regretted the furor over the results of the PA investigation, which attributed Sharif's death to an assassination plot by his Izzeddin Kassam colleagues.

Rajoub said the PA had no intention of blaming Hamas or absolving Israel of the murder.

Rajoub told the Gulf daily *Al Khaleej* that the PA turned to several Arab countries, one believed to be Egypt, to run tests of evidence found at the site where Sharif's body was found. He said that PA Minister of Sport and Youth Tala Sadat has urged Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in Amman to persuade the organization to cooperate with the PA investigation.

"They [in Hamas] keep saying they have an investigation by the Kassam brigade," Rajoub said. "Where is it? Let them show this." Rajoub said he has a recording of a monitored phone call between a Hamas agent in Gaza speaking to his colleague in the West Bank before the PA concluded that Hamas was responsible for Sharif's death.

The Gaza agent asked that Hamas in the West Bank accuse the PA's General Intelligence and Preventive Security of Sharif's slaying.

The Palestinian security chief said that the same explosives that blew up in Sharif's garage were found in Hamas's arms caches. He said Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi had no connection to the slaying.

Rajoub said the PA has asked Hamas to participate in the investigation into Sharif's death.

"We are the authority and we are doing the investigation," he said. "We did ask Hamas to cooperate with the PA and its agencies to unravel the Mubir Sharif slaying and talk about what information there is regarding the infiltration inside Hamas."

Hamas's political wing, the National Salvation Front, has ruled out cooperating with the PA inquiry and called for the release of those detained in connection with the killing.

Rajoub said Hamas tried to organize a demonstration against his agency on April 10 and after much effort 50 people showed up.

"Our people knows that we are nationalists and that we carried arms before Hamas presented its current program," Rajoub said.

PA aide calls visit golden opportunity Blair 'must apologize to Palestinians'

British Prime Minister Tony Blair must apologize to Palestinians and offer them compensation for Britain's help to Jews in creating their state on parts of Palestine, a senior Palestinian official said yesterday.

Akram Haniyeh, a senior aide to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Blair's visit would be a "golden opportunity to apologize to the Palestinian people on behalf of his country for the great catastrophes that British policies brought on the Palestinians."

Blair, representing the European Union, began a five-day trip to the Middle East on Friday. He will hold talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today and meet Arafat in Gaza City tomorrow.

Palestinians have historically blamed Britain for approving the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in 1917 and for later helping the Jews create their state in parts of British Mandate Palestine.

"Britain is fundamentally and greatly responsible for the Palestinian people's *Nakba* [disas-

ter], therefore this apology by Blair is a historical must that cannot be ignored. It is very important to try to heal some of the deep wounds," Haniyeh said in a column published by the *Al-Ayyam* independent daily newspaper.

Blair, who has said he hopes Middle East countries will react favorably to European peace efforts, will take with him plans which focus on Gaza's economic development.

Haniyeh said Britain was historically responsible for the destruction of the Palestinian people's social and economic infrastructure, yet its aid to Palestinians was meager.

"Britain must increase its aid to the Palestinian people. In fact it must top the donors' list in order to pay some sort of compensation for the Palestinian people," he said.

"A step in this direction — the historic apology, compensation, and an intensified political effort, are much more crucial than a mere agreement on an industrial zone, which will require tens of security protocols for it to function," Haniyeh said. (Reuters)

Two Palestinian infiltrators captured in Gush Katif

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF has issued a stern warning to the Palestinian Police regarding a bombing and an attempted infiltration of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip over the weekend.

Late Friday night, a makeshift bomb exploded along the patrol fence surrounding Gush Katif, the army said. It caused no injuries or

damage, but IDF troops sweeping the area detected a second device. IDF sappers were brought in and detonated it, the army said, adding that remnants of the bomb were taken in for examination.

At about the same time, suspicious figures were seen lurking near the fence around the settlement of Atzmona in the southern Gaza Strip. An IDF force rushed to the area and captured the suspects,

who turned out to be Palestinians trying to infiltrate into the settlement. They were taken in for questioning, the army said.

It was not clear last night whether their motive was criminal or if they planned to carry out a terrorist attack. In light of these events, the IDF lodged a serious protest with the Palestinian Police that "if it happens again there will be a grave response by the IDF."



Katir Kana shelling anniversary

Children from Lebanon's Burji family carry flowers yesterday to lay on the graves of relatives killed in the southern village of Kana, on the second anniversary of the mistaken IDF shelling that killed 106 civilians taking shelter at a UN compound there. (AP)

Syria: 'No way' to guarantee security after IDF pullout

By News agencies

BEIRUT — A senior Syrian official said yesterday that Syria and Lebanon would not guarantee Israel's security in the event that it withdrew troops from Lebanon.

"Syria and Lebanon would, in no way, guarantee Israel's security. Israel's security and the security of Syria, Lebanon and the states of the region could only be achieved through a just and comprehensive peace," said Abdullah al-Ahmar, Assistant Secretary-General of the ruling Baath Party in Syria.

Ahmar was referring to a proposal endorsed by the inner cabinet last month to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. "The new Israeli maneuver rep-

resented in the conditional adoption of Resolution 425... aims at demolishing Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, unity and stability and at separating the brotherly relations between Syria and Lebanon," Ahmar said in a speech in the southern village of Ansar.

In a related development, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim met yesterday with Syrian President Hafez Assad to discuss bilateral ties and the stalled peace process, according to Assad's spokesman, Jibril Kourieh.

Qatari-Syrian relations began to improve last month when Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa attend a meeting of foreign ministers from Islamic countries in Qatar.

3 Arabs attack security guard at Jerusalem Mall

By ELI WOHLGELERTER

Three Arab residents of Jerusalem were detained by police last night after attacking a

Jerusalem Mall security guard. An argument broke out between the three and the security guard, after they refused the security check, according to police.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of
PROF. SIDNEY KARK

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, April 19, 1998, at 3 p.m., Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem. Meeting at Beit Hahavayot Kehilat Yerushalayim (opposite Herzog Hospital).

The family: Emily, Carol, Jeremy and Ruth, Bill and Shosh, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Shiva at home: Rehov Hechalutz 57, Beit Hakerem.

The unveiling of the matseva
in memory of

BESSIE SOLOMON ז"ל

will take place at 2 p.m. on April 20, 1998, Nissan 24 at the Givat Shaul Cemetery, Jerusalem

We will meet at the bus stop at the entrance to the cemetery.

Her sisters
their daughters and grand-daughters
Her brother-in-law
Relatives and friends
The Keren Kayemet organization
and the Hochstein family

Yeshivat Beth Abraham Shonim, Jerusalem

congratulates

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Wohl ז"ל

its esteemed friend, supporter and patron of Jerusalem who was responsible for the building of its magnificent Beit Midrash Yad Wohl - Wohl Torah Center on the Yeshiva's Jerusalem Campus on being honored by the Mayor of Jerusalem with the title

Ne'eman Yerushalayim

Honorary Fellow of the City of Jerusalem

G-d be with you. May you succeed in all your endeavors, according to the verse: "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age, they shall be full of sap and richness" (Yeshayahu, 92)

Rabbi Shmuel Bersovski
Rosh Yeshiva

Rabbi David Weintraub
Director-General

'Prisoner Day' clashes in capital



A Greek Orthodox woman waits with her candles for the start of the Holy Fire ceremony at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem yesterday. (AP)

Christian sects fight at holy site

By HAIM SHAPIRO

One person was sent to hospital with a knife wound and another was lightly injured with a stone when Armenian and Syrian Orthodox Christians fought yesterday in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in a dispute over who has the right to display religious joy.

The dispute took place as some 15,000 Orthodox Christians jammed the historic church for the Ceremony of the Holy Fire, the highlight of the Orthodox Easter celebration.

Police detained three men for questioning but released them at the request of their bishop, police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

"Our main concern was to calm the tension between the two groups," Ben-Ruby told The Associated Press.

According to George Hintlian, an historian of local Christianity and a former official of the Armenian Patriarchate, only one group of young men, the Greek Orthodox, are allowed to display religious exuberance according to the status quo on

the holy places, an arrangement that has lasted for over a century.

Hintlian said that for the past seven years, the Syrian Orthodox had tried to organize their own procession of religious happiness.

He said the Syrian youths came armed with metal bars, stones and knives. "I blame the Religious Affairs Ministry and the police for not keeping these people from entering, despite our warnings," Hintlian said.

Jack Khazmo, a prominent lay member of the Syrian Orthodox community, said the fighting started after one Syrian Orthodox youth mistakenly began to shout.

Although other members of the community immediately hushed him, the Syrian Orthodox worshippers were immediately set upon by the Armenians, he said.

Khazmo accused the police of being biased against the Syrian Orthodox. He said that last night the Armenian patriarch and Syrian Orthodox archbishop had met and reestablished peace between the two communities.

Young Palestinians demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails clashed with police yesterday in east Jerusalem in a protest held to mark the annual Palestinian Prisoners Day.

The Palestinians, who did not have a license to demonstrate, marched along a major thoroughfare, but were stopped by police who ordered them to disperse, police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

The marchers threw stones and bottles at the police, who responded by firing rubber bullets, Ben-Ruby said.

Shop and car windows were smashed and an Israeli family driving through the street was attacked by the crowd and had to be rescued by police, Ben-Ruby said.

Five policemen and an undisclosed number of protesters were injured. Five demonstrators were arrested before the crowd dispersed.

In Hebron, another procession was held in support of Palestinian prisoners. This march was with the permission of the Palestinian Police.

About 100 Palestinians marched through the Palestinian-controlled part of the West Bank city, carrying placards saying "There can be no peace with Israel unless the Palestinian prisoners are released" and "The prisoners are the heart of the Palestinian issue now." The march ended peacefully.

Since the Oslo peace accords, Israel has released more than 3,000 Palestinian prisoners jailed for offenses related to security. However, an estimated 5,000 remain in jail. (AP)



A border policeman confronts a Palestinian demonstrator yesterday in the capital during an illegal march marking 'Palestinian Prisoners Day.' (Reuters)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Zero inflation

The Central Bureau of Statistics report of virtually no inflation in the first quarter of 1998 and consumer price index decline in March surprised the Finance Ministry, the Bank of Israel, and the Manufacturers Association and "marks the return to our economic reality: the reality of recession," states Yediot Aharonot's Sever Plotzker. He adds that recession, unemployment, and interest rates will continue to brake inflation. Plotzker states that the negative index is exactly what Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel need in order to prepare the ground for the liberalization plan.

"There is no doubt that the recession has a crucial part in the stability of prices... let us hope the

government maintains the achievement of low inflation," writes Guy Rolnik in Ha'aretz.

According to Yediot's Gidon Eshet, the negative index is good for the banks but bad for the manufacturers. "In the long run, every one loses because a negative index marks the expected decline in the national income... the braking of inflation occurred despite government planning, not because of it."

Symbolic victory

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine member Ahmed Katamesh's release following five years of administrative detention, after signing a pledge of non-violence, is a psychological achievement more than a practical one, writes Oren Shachor in Ma'ariv. He stresses the fact that the Popular

Front is a small organization which has not been active recently. "Practically speaking, the main terrorist threat was and remains the threat of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations... Nonetheless, we should congratulate the phenomenon where members of a terrorist organization declare that they have abandoned the cycle of blood."

Yediot's Roni Shaked clarifies that the agreement only binds the men who had personally signed it and not the Popular Front as an organization. "Israel can present the agreement as an achievement in its fight against terrorism," he writes.

Palestinian agenda

The Palestinian Authority's efforts to appease Hamas after weeks of tension in response to Muhi Shari's death indicates that

the Palestinians will not conduct arrests and will not act against the organization's infrastructure, claims Ha'aretz's B.S. Noga.

In an interview with Ma'ariv's Yoav Limor and Oded Granot, OC Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon says the Sharif incident only proves that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is the one who either encourages or discourages Hamas from conducting terrorist attacks. However, he warns that "the current situation provides Hamas with a motive to carry out attacks in order to release the organization from its entanglement caused by the conflict with the PA."

Waiting for Blair

"On Sunday, the meteor of world politics will land in Israel," writes Orna Nemer in Yediot regarding

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit. "Like a real prince he will bestow charm on his hosts and leave us missing the promise that surrounds him." Nemer provides a positive account of Blair, especially in light of the agreement in Northern Ireland. "After this, no one could claim, including his critics... that he is a man of words and not of actions." She adds that Blair represents President Bill Clinton's ambition to advance the peace process in the region.

"He succeeded, also with the help of American mediation, to reject any demand for a withdrawal from the British territories in Northern Ireland," states Moshe Zak in Ha'aretz, referring to the impossible comparison between the demands from the British in the Irish agreement and the unrealistic expectations from Israel by the Palestinians.

British actress hopes to free Vanunu

By BATSEVA TSUR

Two British politicians and actress Susannah York have arrived in the hope of securing the release of Mordechai Vanunu, who was jailed in 1987 for spilling nuclear secrets to a British newspaper.

The joint vice-chairmen of the Human Rights Groups of the British Parliament and House of Lords, Labor MP Jeremy Corbyn and Lord Avebury have requested permission to visit Vanunu in the Ashkelon jail this morning, accompanied by York.

The vice-chairmen met yesterday evening with MK Yossi Katz, chairman of the Knesset's State Control Committee. Katz recently was active in arranging Vanunu's removal from solitary confinement, obtaining more privileges for him and getting permission for him to mix with other inmates.

The MPs are visiting for 24 hours. They also hope to meet with President Ezer Weizman, according to Rami Heilbronn, an activist with the International Campaign to Free Vanunu. They are said to want to try to persuade Weizman to grant a presidential pardon to Vanunu.

Heilbronn said that the MPs' visit is not connected with the scheduled arrival today of British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The politicians are bringing a petition they intend to hand to Weizman, signed by 700 international figures, including 20 Nobel laureates, scientists, artists and MPs from Australia, Italy, Norway, Great Britain and France. Vanunu and his lawyer Avigdor Feldman will appear before a parole board on Wednesday to ask for his release after having served two-thirds of his term. If Weizman turns down a request for a pardon, Heilbronn said.

Vanunu, who was jailed after being convicted of selling atomic secrets to the Sunday Times of London in 1986, has been visited by MKs but has not been allowed to see any foreign dignitaries.

An American couple - Nick and Mary Eloff of Minnesota - who have adopted Vanunu as their son, were recently allowed to visit him.

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Pro-Israel US Christians to sign solidarity pledge

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Thousands of pro-Israel Christians will be asked to sign a pledge against anti-Semitism when they converge in Florida later this month for their Israel Jubilee Conference, organizers announced last week.

In the coming weeks, 50,000 to 100,000 Christians are expected to sign a pledge of solidarity with Israel, making a "personal commitment to view any antisemitic act against a Jewish individual, family, business, or synagogue as an act against one's own church, and to oppose it by every means possible," according to a statement by event organizers.

The pledge is part of a "massive effort to mobilize America's estimated 15 million pro-active, pro-Israel Christians to strike a blow against anti-Semitism in the United States and around the world," the statement said. The event, planned by the Christian Alliance for Israel and sanctioned by the Israel 50th Anniversary Committee, will be held from April 29 to May 3 in

Orlando, and is expected to draw up to 18,000 people.

"Many historians and scholars believe that if the Church in Austria and Germany had taken this stand on behalf of Jews in the late 1930s, it could have prevented the Holocaust in which six million Jews died," Cheryl Schang, the event's planner, said in a statement. "We want to invigorate the church in America and worldwide to identify, attack, and eradicate the tenets of antisemitism wherever it is found."

Although antisemitic incidents continue to decline in the US, individual and state-sponsored antisemitism persists in the rest of the world, Schang said. "I think most Americans would be shocked to learn that more than two dozen countries forbid Jews to live within their borders," she said, also noting that antisemitism is proliferating on the Internet, in hate magazines and tabloids, and among groups like the Aryan Nation.

The formal statement will be issued at the jubilee conference. It will be sent to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Bill

Clinton, and members of Congress, "making a strong statement about the solid support of the American Christian community for Israel and the Jewish people," organizers said.

The alliance is comprised of Christian individuals, churches, and organizations "who share a love for and a commitment to Israel and the Jewish people." Jews for Judaism, a counter-missionary group, previously derided the alliance's members as a "who's who of the missionary movement." However, Schang said, there is a strict ban on proselytizing.

The alliance originally announced that Netanyahu would participate in person or via satellite TV hookup. That plan apparently has been nixed. Participants now listed for the event - which is expected to reach an international audience via satellite and the Internet - include: Shimon Peres, who was listed as a former general in the IDF; former 700 Club co-host Ben Kinchlow; Rabbi Daniel Lapin, founder of Toward Tradition; Jan Wilhelm Van der Hoven of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem; and singer Pat Boone.



Bread is back

Dr. Lampros Paladas joins the crowd at east Jerusalem's Musarrab Bakery yesterday to buy freshly baked pita following the end of Pessah.

(Joe Makolm)

NY State to open business office here

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - New York State, a primary American trading partner, is expected to open a business office in Israel later this month when Governor George Pataki visits Israel.

"More and more Israelis are investing in the US and New York wants to be sure it gets its fair share," said David Rubin, Israel's economic minister to North America.

In 1997, Israelis invested \$434 million in the US, up from \$260 million in 1995. It is thought that those investments create several tens of thousands of jobs in the US. Foreign investment in Israel also is rising, from \$2.4 billion in 1996, to \$3.8 billion in 1997.

Israel is one of the top trading partners of New York State, and New York is No. 1 among the American states in exports to Israel, with some \$1.3 billion in exports in 1996, Rubin said, in New York.

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WHERE TO RENT A CAR

Unionists endorse N.Irish peace pact

By MARTIN COWLEY

BELFAST (Reuters) — Northern Ireland's main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), voted overwhelmingly yesterday to back a peace deal that endorses the province's British status but builds bridges with Ireland.

A meeting of the 800-strong ruling council of the UUP agreed by 540 votes to 210 votes to support the accord which was thrashed out last week by the eight main Protestant and Roman Catholic parties in the province, UUP officials said.

In Dublin, Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams told a meeting of his party that a final assessment would be given at a special Sinn Féin conference to be held within a month.

UUP leader David Trimble said his party still had concerns over parts of the agreement, which is intended to end 30 years of violence between Protestant and Catholic communities which has at times spilled over with bombings in the rest of Britain and in the Irish Republic.

But he told a news conference the agreement opened the path to a new era. "We too are making compromises for the greater good... The door is open for the rest of the community to come through it with us."

Trimble acknowledged fears expressed by many Protestant Unionists that the peace deal will allow Sinn Féin leaders to hold political office while its IRA militia holds on to its guns.

An IRA cease-fire has held since July last year but, like its extremist Protestant rivals, it has yet to hand over a single weapon. "I now ask the IRA and Sinn Féin: Are they prepared to finally and irrevocably renounce violence?" Trimble said after the vote.

Outside the UUP meeting, noisy crowds brandishing Union Jack flags and placards declaring "No sell-out" had barracked UUP leaders as they arrived for the



Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble holds up a copy of the Ulster peace agreement after having won a "yes" vote from his party, the Ulster Unionists. (AP)

council meeting. A smaller rival demonstration shouted support for the deal, underlining divisions within the Unionist community.

Tension was heightened in Belfast by the murder of a Catholic taxi driver on Friday night in a staunchly republican area of the city. But police said they had no evidence to suggest it was the first sectarian killing since the peace deal was signed last week.

In Dublin, Adams said Sinn Féin should not be "bounced into" decisions at this stage. But he added that last week's

accord "has the potential to redefine the relationships between these two islands."

While stopping short of giving outright support to the accord, he said it could "open up another phase" in their struggle for Irish unity.

He also congratulated Trimble for winning the vote within his party in Belfast, saying: "Well done David."

Trimble invited President Bill Clinton to visit the province, but only after the referendum on the peace agreement on May 22.

Clinton will be in the area the weekend before that, attending an

economic summit in Birmingham, England.

"Of course we welcome President Clinton's interest, we appreciate his interest, and he has been helpful. And of course he will be welcome to come to Northern Ireland," Trimble said.

"But for the moment our advice would be, let's wait 'til we get the referendum over. We don't want to have a situation where people here feel that they are being in any way pressurized."

"And I think the president would perhaps not want to come in the midst of a referendum campaign where his visit would be

treated as a political event, as part of that campaign," Trimble said.

The 69-page document sees Ireland dropping its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland. Adams has already described it as "transitional" in the Republican struggle for unity with Ireland.

The peace accord assures Northern Ireland will remain part of Britain unless a majority chooses otherwise at some point in the future.

It paves the way for a new power-sharing assembly and cross-border institutions to span the whole island of Ireland.

WORLD

in brief

12 die in US storms

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Reuters) — A flash flood killed a woman in Tennessee yesterday, pushing the death toll to 12 from brutal weather in the South and emergency workers warned of more flooding as heavy rains pounded the region.

Severe thunderstorms threatened Mississippi and coastal Texas as moist, unstable air stalled in a band from the Gulf of Mexico to the Carolinas.

Downpours hampered clean-up operations in Tennessee where 80 of 95 counties in the state were under flash flood watch. Heavy rains were expected throughout the weekend.

Metropolitan New Orleans was included in areas of Louisiana where floods were reported possible. Storms also dotted Georgia and Alabama, with hail hitting some regions.

Six people died earlier this week in rural parts of Tennessee in tornadoes and storms, while three people were killed in Kentucky and two children perished in a predawn tornado in Arkansas.

Leaders of Americas meet

SANTIAGO (Reuters) — Leaders of the Americas yesterday pledged to forge the world's largest free trade zone and committed themselves to seek social gains that have lagged macroeconomic progress in many of their nations.

The focus of the weekend Summit of the Americas of 34 leaders was the launch of negotiations for a free trade zone stretching from Alaska to Patagonia by the year 2005 that would integrate 800 million people and economies worth \$10 trillion.

But the presidents and prime ministers from all the Americas except Cuba, which was not invited, were also drafting reforms to improve education, the judiciary and human rights and reduce poverty and drug trafficking in Latin America.

A draft document detailing the action plan of the leaders, obtained by Reuters, instructs trade ministers to begin talks to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Melbourne police break union picket lines

MELBOURNE (AP) — Hundreds of police, some on horseback, broke through a maritime union picket line yesterday to open the Melbourne docks for the first time in two weeks.

No one was hurt in the first early morning confrontation, in which 3,000 protesters linked arms but failed to hold their lines against the police thrust.

Later in the day about 400 protesters linked arms and legs five lines deep and lay across the gate to the dock as empty trucks further down the road waited for police to clear a path.

About 80 police moved in and pulled arms, legs and hair as they dragged protesters away in an attempt to clear a path.

Police eventually backed away while protesters cheered as they reassembled their picket line and the empty trucks drove away.

Protesters had been picketing Melbourne's docks since late last year, when the National Farmers' Federation began training non-union labor to work there.

Annan warns poverty will defeat growth

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday told finance and cooperation ministers that the world had to minimize the trauma ordinary people suffered during a financial crisis while at the same time preserving open markets.

"Macro aggregates do not capture the trauma that individuals and families have to undergo as a result of crisis of this nature," he said.

Annan opened a special session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) aimed at coordinating divergent policies of finance ministers and institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, with the United Nations and ministers concentrating on development projects.

Yeltsin backers confident over Kiriyenko's election

By ADAM TANMER

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Supporters of President Boris Yeltsin lined up yesterday to predict victory for him in his tussle with Russia's parliament over a new government, and even opponents began to hint they might change their minds.

The opposition-dominated Duma, parliament's lower house, defied Yeltsin on Friday by rejecting his chosen prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, for the second time.

Yeltsin, who was on a trip to Japan for a weekend break from domestic political turmoil, has renominated Kiriyenko and set the stage for a decisive vote by next Friday. The Duma must either back down and accept him, or reject him again and face automatic dissolution and unwelcome early elections.

It is still far from certain the opposition will fall into line but the Kremlin team seems to sense a shift.

"I'm sure a government will be formed next Friday, 100 percent sure," Acting First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov told reporters in Japan.

In Moscow, a senior aide to Yeltsin took a similar line.

"I'm a cautious person and I'm very sure that next Friday Kiriyenko will be approved and the State Duma will not be dissolved

but will continue its work," Sergei Shakhrai, Yeltsin's representative at the Constitutional Court, told Reuters. "It's a big internal political and economic game."

A senior member of the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, the third largest in the Duma, yesterday said the faction might change its position and vote for Kiriyenko.

"We have a conditional approach and we are not hiding this."

Authorities should fulfil a series of our demands," Alexei Mitrofanov, chairman of the Duma's geopolitical committee, told Reuters. "We'll make our decision Thursday or Friday."

Yeltsin, who has met parliamentary leaders to discuss Kiriyenko but has not so far gone to the Duma to appeal to deputies, appeared to be in upbeat spirits during meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday.

Yeltsin, meanwhile, told Russian trainees it was time for the younger generation to take over and reminded them Kiriyenko was 35. He said some advisers had pointed to people of pensionable age to be nominated for cabinet posts.

"That won't happen," Yeltsin said in televised remarks.

The Communists, the largest group in the Duma with 138 of the 450 seats, kept up pressure at home but one senior and hard-line party member hinted even they might

change tack.

Viktor Ilyukhin, head of the Duma's security committee, told Ekho Moskvy radio the party might seek Yeltsin's impeachment if Kiriyenko got through.

He said there were several possibilities for the way his party would vote at the third hearing.

"Even before the second vote, we started to receive many letters and telegrams saying 'don't allow the Duma to be dissolved, it is our last hope'," Ilyukhin said in a comment that hinted at the reasoning the Communists could use if they change their minds next week.

Many experts expect the Communists and other Kiriyenko opponents to back down before next week's final vote, largely to maintain their position and perks in the Duma.

"Perhaps they will confirm Kiriyenko, thus showing themselves to be complete prostitutes in a circus-like bazaar," Larisa Fiyasheva, a consultant to the Federation Council upper house's budget committee, said in an interview yesterday.

To a large extent Kiriyenko's fate depends on the Communists, who face a difficult decision, said Fiyasheva.

If they decide to vote for, they will strongly discredit themselves before voters," she said. "But if they vote against the dissolution will take place and that is also bad."

Yeltsin proposes Japan treaty

KAWANA, Japan, (Reuters)

Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday raised the stakes in relations with Japan, proposing they sign a wider agreement than just a simple peace treaty to formally end World War Two hostilities.

Yeltsin's unexpected offer on the first day of a two-day summit with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, was part of the maneuvering around the thorn in their relations, Japan's demand that Russia return uncon-

ditionally four tiny islands captured in the closing days of the war.

At a Yeltsin-Hashimoto summit last November in Russia, the two leaders agreed to work towards signing a peace treaty by 2000.

Yeltsin's spokesman said the time had come to move on from World War Two, while Yeltsin's First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov hinted territorial issues could only be discussed when Japan showed it was ready to pay.

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KOHINOOR Kasher Indian Restaurant — Kastrini supervision by Rabbi Yosef Pink. Buffet lunch NIS 49 (children NIS 25). Open 12-4 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crown Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel/Fax: 02-653 6667.

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Cohen: US forces to stay in Gulf

News agencies

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — The United States will maintain a military presence in the Gulf region for the "foreseeable future to make sure there is full compliance with UN resolutions," US Defense Secretary William Cohen said yesterday.

UN sanctions on Iraq will remain until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein produces evidence that he had destroyed his weapons of mass destruction, the defense secretary reiterated.

"It is imperative that Saddam Hussein produces proof that he has in fact destroyed those chemicals and biological weapons and missiles that he claims have been destroyed," Cohen said.

"Until such evidence is produced, then there can be no easing of the sanctions," he told reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali.

He said missions by UN inspectors charged with dismantling Iraq's biological and chemical

weapons "have been less successful than one might judge."

In Cairo, Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf demanded yesterday that the United Nations put a time limit on inspections of Saddam Hussein's palaces.

Sahhaf also dismissed as "boring and... baseless" a report by the chief UN weapons inspector that said that virtually no progress has been made recently by UN arms monitors.

"The inspection should have a time limit and not be open ended," Sahhaf told reporters.

In a report to the UN Security Council on Friday, the chief UN weapons inspector, Richard Butler, said the crisis had disrupted the inspections program and "virtually no progress in verifying disarmament" has been made recently.

Meanwhile, in Baghdad, Hussein, wearing a civilian suit and dark sunglasses, waved to thousands of Iraqis armed with AK-47 rifles as they marched through the capital city in a show of defiance to the United States.

Paula Jones vows appeal

By LOIS ROMANO

DALLAS — A teary Paula Jones, barely able to compose herself, announced Thursday that she will appeal a federal judge's ruling that her sexual harassment case against President Clinton has no merit.

"I have not come this far to see the law let men who have done such things dodge their responsibility," said Jones, her high-pitched voice quivering as she faced a packed press conference here.

"I believe what Mr. Clinton did to me was wrong, and the law protects women who are subjected to that kind of abuse of power."

US District Judge Susan Webber Wright threw out Jones' case on April 1, saying that Clinton's alleged behavior may have been "boonish and offensive" but did not constitute sexual harassment.

While many legal experts said Jones faces an uphill battle, the case could make its way again to the Supreme Court, which already set one precedent last year by decreeing that the Jones lawsuit could proceed while Clinton was in office.

(Washington Post)

WORLD

in brief

Austrian president favorite in vote

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austrians look set to put their faith in experience and reelect incumbent President Thomas Klestil for a second six-year term by a comfortable margin today, opinion polls show.

Klestil, a 65-year-old former diplomat who is running as an independent candidate, has run an aloof campaign, refusing to take part in a televised debate with his challengers and banking on the advantage of his incumbent status.

Unless a dramatic reversal occurred in the last few days, the incumbent "stands on the verge of a crushing win, with the last three opinion polls giving him 60 to 66 percent," the weekly NEWS magazine said on Thursday.

Havel undergoes another operation

VIENNA (Reuters) - Czech President Vaclav Havel, recovering in hospital in the Austrian city of Innsbruck from an emergency operation on his intestine, underwent an operation on his lung yesterday, his doctor said.

A build-up of mucus was preventing part of the 61-year-old president's right lung from receiving enough air. Doctors were examining the patient through a tube inserted into his lung and were trying to clean the mucus away.

Two Rwanda priests sentenced to death

KIGALI (Reuters) - A court in Rwanda has sentenced to death two priests after finding them guilty of crimes against humanity and acts of genocide committed during the 1994 massacres.

The two priests Jean Francois Kayiranga and Edouard Nkurikiye are the first priests to be convicted under Rwanda's genocide trials, which began in December 1996, state radio said.

Turin Shroud exhibition begins

TURIN (Reuters) - The Turin Shroud, a yellowing sheet bearing the inexplicable image of a crucified man that some revere as Christ's burial cloth, went on display yesterday for only the fourth time this century.

Enclosed in a glass case filled with inert gas, the fragile linen cloth was hung in Turin's cathedral where up to 50,000 people a day are expected to line up to contemplate one of Christianity's most enduring - and controversial - mysteries.

Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, Turin's archbishop and the custodian of the Shroud, prayed before the cloth at an inaugural mass in the 15th century church, where it was draped in purple.

Manischewitz sold for \$124 million

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Distributor R.A.B. Enterprises Inc. has agreed to buy B. Manischewitz Co., a leading producer of kosher food products, for about \$124 million, R.A.B.'s top executive said Friday.

"Manischewitz is to kosher brands what Coca-Cola is to general consumers," said Richard A. Bernstein, chairman, president and chief executive officer of R.A.B. "Its brand recognition is extraordinary."

Bernstein said the company plans to market Manischewitz products beyond their traditional Jewish customer base. He said the products have appeal to a wider audience because of their quality and taste.

'Gump' actor 'Bubba' faces trial

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Actor Mykelti Williamson, best known for his role as "Bubba" in the film *Forrest Gump*, was ordered on Friday to stand trial for attempted manslaughter for allegedly stabbing his ex-wife's boyfriend.

Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge Elva Soper denied a demand by prosecutors that Williamson, 40, should face attempted murder charges.

No trial date was set for the actor, who is free on \$180,000 bail.

US woman, 117, named oldest person alive

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (Reuters) - A 117-year-old Pennsylvania woman who hates vegetables and advises against worrying about age has been named the world's oldest living person.

Sarah Clark Knauss, a former seamstress, was formally given the title on Friday by officials from the Guinness Book of World Records, according to staff at the Allentown nursing home at which she lives.

Born on Sept. 24, 1880, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, the great-great-grandmother has lived through seven US wars, three presidential assassinations, the sinking of the Titanic, Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic and the Apollo space mission to the moon.

Relatives, who include a daughter in her 90s and a 48-year-old great-granddaughter, say she has been known to eat pounds of chocolate, potato chips, pretzels and candy while avoiding anything remotely resembling a vegetable.

Knauss was named the oldest living person after the death of a Canadian woman, Marie-Louise Febronie Meilleur of Corbeil, Ontario, who was older by less than four weeks.

Pol Pot cremated in private ceremony

Architect of Cambodian 'killing fields' dies of heart failure

By VITHOON AMORN

SA-NGAAM PASS, Cambodia, (Reuters) - The body of former Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, one of the century's most reviled dictators, was cremated by his comrades yesterday in a low-key ceremony in a northern Cambodia hamlet.

A Khmer Rouge spokesman told reporters at Sa-ngaam Pass on the Thai-Cambodian border that Pol Pot was cremated in mid-morning opposite a wooden shack where his body was displayed to the press on Thursday.

Pol Pot was architect of the ultra-leftist "killing fields" regime which ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 and was blamed for the deaths of more than one million Cambodians, mainly from forced labor and starvation.

The 73-year-old former guerrilla leader, who had become increasingly frail, apparently died on Wednesday of heart failure.

The private cremation ceremony was attended by about 20 people, mainly Khmer Rouge followers, and lasted for about 15 minutes, said spokesman Nuan No.

As he spoke, reporters could hear the thunder of mortar and tank rocket shells reverberating from Khmer Rouge-held areas as fighting raged between guerrillas and Cambodian government troops reported to have taken the group's nearby stronghold of Anlong Veng.

Images seen on local television in Thailand showed guerrillas carrying a coffin draped in a colored blanket and adorned by a bunch of white and pink flowers.

They placed the coffin on a cremation pyre along with Pol Pot's humble personal and favorite belongings, including his walking stick, rocking chair and mattress.

The pyre of wood and used car tyres was then splashed with gasoline and lit by a Khmer Rouge soldier. More gasoline was then thrown on the fire, stoking the flames and sending up a column of thick black smoke.



A Khmer Rouge soldier stands guard over the body of Pol Pot, approx. 20 km. north of Anlong Veng, Cambodia, on Friday.

There were no eulogies or speeches made at the ceremony.

"There was no sadness or sorrow expressed at the cremation."

"We are actually happy because we will be spared of further international criticism because of Pol Pot," Nuan No said.

Pol Pot's ashes would be scattered in three places around northern Cambodia, he added.

Some would be deposited along the Dongrek mountain range which borders Thailand and Cambodia and others would be strewn near the Tonle Sap lake area and in northern Ratanakiri

province where Pol Pot was raised, he said.

Pol Pot's wife Mea Som, 40, and daughter Mea Set, 14, were not present at the cremation although they had been by his body in past days, Nuan No said.

Pol Pot was purged by the current Khmer Rouge leadership late last year and sentenced to life imprisonment. He died while under house arrest and on the run with Khmer Rouge guerrillas from government troops in Cambodia's northern jungles.

The announcement of his death coincided with a new and inten-

sive effort by the United States, in consultation with China, Thailand and other nations, to bring him to international justice.

Thai military sources at the border said the tattered remnants of the once-feared Khmer Rouge could still hold out for some time after Pol Pot's death despite factionalism and increasing numbers of defections to the government side.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian government, which had demanded that Pol Pot's body be handed over for proper identification, was still not convinced that the body cre-

mated yesterday was actually his. "We don't know if the one who was burnt this morning was really Pol Pot or not," cabinet spokesman Svay Sitha told Reuters. But Cambodian newspapers acknowledged yesterday that Pol Pot was indeed dead and played up pictures and news about his demise.

A Thai military team confirmed the body was Pol Pot's after examining it on Thursday. The team took samples of his hair and his fingerprints and said his body bore no wounds, but was unable to determine the cause of death.

Korea talks collapse

By PAUL ECKHART

BEIJING (Reuters) - Talks between the two rival Koreas on aid to the famine-stricken North collapsed yesterday with each side faulting each other for the breakdown in their high-level contact in four years.

"South Korea is responsible for the failure to reach agreement because it politicized a humanitarian and economic issue," said Jon Kum-chol, North Korea's chief negotiator.

Jon, looking dejected, told a news briefing he was "pessimistic" about the future of ties with the new South Korean government of Kim Dae-jung because Seoul would not donate fertilizer to the North without strings attached.

"The new South Korean administration is using fertilizer as a means of political provocation," he said. "Their demands were unreasonably harsh." The talks started last Saturday but broke down on Tuesday over Seoul's insistence it would only offer aid if the North committed itself to allow reunions of families divided since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Jon's South Korean counterpart, Jeong Se-hyon, told reporters North Korea had unilaterally decided to end talks, calling at midnight to cancel a scheduled reopening of the talks yesterday morning.

He faulted North Korea for demanding fertilizer aid while refusing to make a firm commitment to discuss the family reunions and other issues of South Korean concern. The North had proposed the talks on April 4 to discuss fertilizer aid.

"The North kept repeating their stance that the donation of fertilizer would lead to the solution of all other issues, but avoided making any clear commitment to a schedule," Jeong told a separate news briefing.

Throughout the talks, South Korea has demanded a firm North Korean pledge to set up a mail exchange center at the border town of Panmunjom and a timetable for reunions of divided families, many of whose members are elderly.

Sounding more upbeat about future talks than his Northern counterpart, however, Jeong added: "It is not correct to call it a

breakdown, because we both hope to restart talks." Neither side gave any indication when the next contacts might take place.

Jeong, however, said he thought that North Korea's international isolation - with both Japan and the United States unwilling to improve their ties to Pyongyang without a North-South thaw - would force it back to the bargaining table sooner or later.

"Faced with a grim international situation, North Korea has no choice but to turn to South Korea for help," Jeong said.

North Korea's Jon, however, insisted his side had been "magnanimous" in agreeing to meet this week in Beijing and said Pyongyang "values its sovereignty more than fertilizer."

"South Korea is mistaken if it thinks we cannot survive without its fertilizer or its economic help," he said defiantly.

Despite its national philosophy of self-reliance, North Korea has been dependent on international aid to feed its 23 million people after three years of floods and drought exacerbated the shortcomings of its collectivized farm system.

Shuttle scientists begin experiments

By PAULINE ARELLAGA

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - The crew of space shuttle *Columbia* wasted little time getting started on some of the 26 neurological experiments they will conduct during their two-week mission.

About five hours after lifting off Friday, the astronauts assembled their orbital lab and began tests to study the effect of weightlessness on eye-hand coordination.

Donning a specially designed glove that tracks their movements, crew members traced moving points of light to gauge sensory motor skills in space. The experiment will be repeated midway through the mission and again toward the end to determine how coordination adjusts in space flight.

The test is the first in a series of experiments looking at how the brain and nervous system adapt and develop in weightlessness. The results could enable NASA to send astronauts to Mars and establish moon colonies.

The experiments also could help solve health problems that afflict

people on earth, including insomnia, vertigo, imbalance, reduced blood pressure and weakened immunity.

"There's something in this mission for everyone," crew member Dave Williams, a Canadian astronaut and emergency room physician, said before the launch. "The types of lessons we're learning, from a medical perspective, are very important." Eleven of the 26 tests involve *Columbia*'s human crew members.

Besides pointing at light, they will be spun on a chair, jabbed with needles, covered with electrodes, squeezed into a decompression chamber and monitored during sleep.

The shuttle's 2,052 other passengers - a menagerie of crickets, snails, fish, rats and mice - are the subjects of the 15 other tests. The hard part for them was to start yesterday, when some of the rats underwent the first of several orbital dissections.

Several rats and all of the mice will be killed and dissected in orbit. Most of the other animals will be killed for dissection once they return to earth.

Jewish student accuses Harvard newspaper of bias

By MICHAEL A. FLETCHER

Through the years, they have grappled with problems of gender, race and even income when sizing up their staff. But as editors at the *Harvard Crimson* took stock of things last fall, they were confronted with a new twist on the diversity debate: Was their editorial page staff too heavily Jewish?

Editors at the 125-year-old student newspaper found that eight of the daily publication's 10 columnists were Jewish, a figure they saw as evidence of the *Crimson*'s failure to represent the full range of views in the university community.

Their solution: Hire editorial chairmen with a commitment to diversity.

The new bosses later expanded the number of columnists to 16 and added more space for opinion pieces in the paper, which allowed for new Moslem, black and female voices on the editorial page.

But those decisions, made in the name of inclusiveness, have ignited a small furor on the Harvard campus after junior Justin Danilewitz claimed he was rejected for the prestigious post as chairman of the paper's

five-person editorial board because he is Jewish.

Although the two students chosen for the job coveted by Danilewitz are themselves Jewish, he believes they were selected only because they shared the view that too many Jewish opinion writers are not a good thing.

Danilewitz aired his views in the current issue of the *American Jewish Committee* journal *Commentary*, drawing national attention to his cause.

Crimson editors dismiss Danilewitz's claim that his religion cost him the position, but they acknowledge that diversity is high on their minds. "If anything, there was a worry that we were not bringing in and reaching out to a broad enough constituency," said Valerie J. MacMillan, former managing editor of the *Crimson*, who was among two dozen people who voted on Danilewitz's candidacy.

There are a tremendous number of talented writers at Harvard. But it would be ridiculous to think that 80 percent of the talented writers at Harvard are Jewish," she said. *Crimson* editors are quick to add that they rejected

Danilewitz, a frequent contributor to the newspaper, because they felt he was unreliable and generally not up to the job of editorial board chair.

"Danilewitz was passed over for editorial chair... because he lacked the skills and commitment to take on the position - not because he is Jewish," said Matthew W. Granade, president of the *Crimson*.

Danilewitz, a South African native who later moved to California and then Philadelphia, sidestepped the criticism, saying, "I don't think personal attacks have any part in this."

The real issue is why my faith was brought up in this."

He said that during the application process, he was told that it was a "problem" that such a large percentage of the paper's columnists were Jewish. He said that observation revealed what he called the paper's shallow view of diversity.

"I infer from them that black reporters would necessarily have a particular viewpoint that the *Crimson* is looking for," he said. "Not only is that illogical, but on another level it is offensive."

(Washington Post)

Two more books by Miriam Adahan

Miriam Adahan's strategies for coping with everyday stress combine psychological insight with perspectives from Jewish sources. Chapters are very short and to-the-point, so that these books can give the reader a "pick-me-up" when needing a wise word from a friendly counselor who has wrestled with the same problems.



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Lemmon: Still travelin' light

By BOB THOMAS

Jack Lemmon remains little changed by his 73 years. He's a bit thick in the middle, but that's to be expected. His face is rosy and relatively unlined, his eyes clear.

And for someone who had no youthful ambition to become an actor, he's enjoyed a fulfilling career.

During his Hollywood years, Lemmon has seemed to be a semi-private man, always congenial and lighthearted, but with a certain reserve that hinted of his Boston birth and Ivy League education. Lemmon is currently working on a new film, *The Odd Couple II: Travelin' Light*. He will star in it with his old sparring mate, Walter Matthau, in a script by Neil Simon, a followup to their 1968 hit.

Lemmon, winner of two Academy Awards, has enjoyed 45 years of uninterrupted stardom. Basically shy as a child, Lemmon says, "I was attracted to acting for the simple reason that I was accepted by my peers, the kids at school, when I performed. I said to myself, 'Gee, this is terrific.' It had nothing to do with talent; it had everything to do with being accepted," he explains.

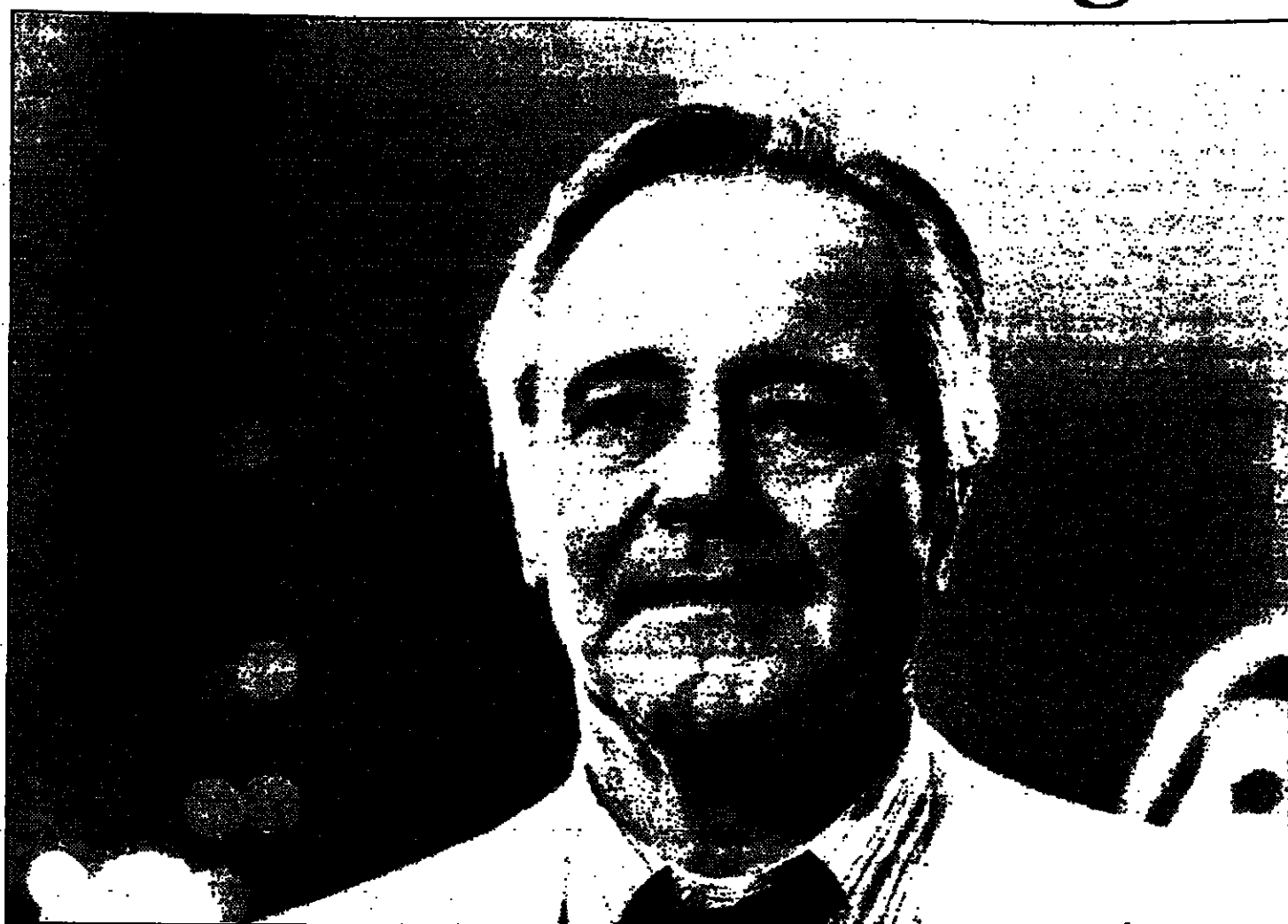
"So I kept at it and started doing bits between classes. The kids would start coming over and saying, 'Imitate W.C. Fields for us. Or Mae West. Do this, do that, tell us a story,'" he recalls.

"Every night, instead of studying, I'd make up stories at home. Then I'd tell them to the kids. So I was performing, in a way. Because I was accepted, I said, 'Jeez, I like this.' Later I fell in love with it when I started acting."

Lemmon admits that he was an academic underachiever. "It had everything to do with not cracking the books. I got by; I made sure of that."

Thanks to his schooling at the prestigious Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, he was accepted to both Harvard and Yale University. He decided on Harvard to be close to his family in Boston. Later, he realized he could have taken advantage of the Yale Drama School. Harvard had no such curriculum, but he did appear in amateur theater.

Before his service in the Navy, Lemmon spent two seasons in summer theater. After the war he studied with the great teacher-



A septuagenarian workaholic: Jack Lemmon has been working almost nonstop for two years.

actress Uta Hagen as well as the coach David Alexander.

"We did scene-study classes with David," Lemmon recalls. "On Wednesday nights we would do the scenes before the class, and the students would critique it. Then he would say, 'What about counterpoint, going exactly the opposite? What would happen?' Now the scene wouldn't hold up that way. But it was interesting to see the actor trying to play it that way, stretching himself, also using what David called obstacles: thinking of things to get in the way of achieving what the actor does in the scene."

This helps explain the Lemmon style, especially in comedy: It's offbeat, seemingly tentative, often surprising. You're never sure what he's going to do next, hence you need to keep your eyes on him.

In New York, Lemmon began finding jobs in radio and off-Broadway, playing piano in bars during the lean periods.

Then came one of the great American acting schools - live television.

During the 1950s, the networks offered numerous dramatic programs that brought experience and recognition to a new generation of actors. Among them were Paul Newman, Grace Kelly, James Dean, Joanne Woodward, Rod Steiger, Cliff Robertson, Lee Remick, Steve McQueen, Eva Marie Saint, Charlton Heston - and Jack Lemmon.

"It was great training, no question," says Lemmon.

The actors were able to work with great writers and directors. They needed to learn their roles fast and be prepared for any emer-

gency. No retakes, no second chances. The programs were transmitted instantaneously to millions.

One of Lemmon's first shows was an hour drama for *Kraft Television Theater*. During a long speech, he drifted to a fireplace. Unbeknownst to him, that part of the set had been hauled upwards, exposing three men playing cards. Lemmon leaned against what he thought would be the mantelpiece and went sprawling. He got up, said, "I'm sorry," and continued his speech.

Television helped attract Hollywood interest, and Lemmon signed a contract with Columbia Pictures. He co-starred with Judy Holiday in his first movie, *I Should Happen to You*.

As Ensign Pulver in his fourth film, *Mister Roberts*, he won the

1955 Academy Award for best supporting actor, and his career was established.

In 1973, he won the Oscar as best actor for *Save the Tiger*, and he has been nominated for *Some Like It Hot*, *The Apartment*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *The China Syndrome*, *Tribute*, and *Missing*.

Lemmon has been working almost nonstop for two years. He won't be in front of the camera again until the fall when he and Matthau shoot *The Odd Couple III*.

He also plans to make a TV movie, *Inherit the Wind* - the play and later the Stanley Kramer film that fictionalized the Scopes "monkey trial." George C. Scott, who appeared with Lemmon in the cable-TV production of *12 Angry Men*, will co-star.

"I love it," Lemmon said. "I'll never quit." (AP)

Armenia joins world-music chorus

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Although American by birth, 40-year-old Ara Dinkjian was born into the Armenian heritage of his family.

"The first memories I recall as a child are of Armenian music, language and food," he says.

At age five he had already begun his professional career, accompanying his father on the *dumbek*, a sort of drum, in the father's concerts of Armenian folk music.

"My father began singing in church but has turned his musical interests toward folk music. When I grew up, I took that direction a few steps further."

As yet, Dinkjian has not visited his homeland. "As shocking as it might sound, I've never been to Armenia, although it's my dream. My parents were born in France and my grandparents in Armenian Turkey. It just happened that I did not get a chance to visit my roots."

Dinkjian, the founder of the world music ensemble Night Ark, making its Israeli debut at the upcoming Israel Festival (June 6), never studied Armenian or world music formally.

"I'm a fanatical record collector. I have thousands of 78 rpm's of Armenian, Greek, Turkish and Arab music, not to mention many other styles. I listen to these records and now to CDs, and I study from them. That is the best way to do it. I listen to many styles but when I discover a genre and it gets into my blood, I want to know everything about it."

Formal music studies never really interested Dinkjian, though. "College can be restricting; I just like to listen to others and to play. When I entered university I didn't fit into any category, so they let me do a contract major and I performed my senior recital on the oud - the first time the instrument was ever heard in Hart College of Music in Hartford, Connecticut."

Dinkjian adds that he was "grateful that they allowed me to be who I am. After all, I was born in the USA and I do like gospel and jazz and classical music, but I hate drawing lines between musical styles and genres - it's really not necessary."

These days Dinkjian is doing research about musicas opposed to just listening. "Tomorrow will probably be different, but right now I want to stop and clear my head."

Dinkjian finds it somewhat hard to describe the characteristics of Armenian music.

"First of all, there are many styles of Armenian music. There's folk music, classical, religious and popular music. Yet Armenian

music always retains its own particular character and identity, except with new popular music. But this is not particular to Armenia," he says.

"If you hear a disc of pop music or open the radio in any given place around the world, you can never really characterize it - it all sounds the same all over the world. And to be honest, that distresses me."

Dinkjian's music naturally retains some Armenian traits. But he is quick to say, "I'm not a museum, so I have to bring the contemporary outlook of the American-Armenian in me to my music."

In 1985 Dinkjian wanted to record "some songs I have written in order not to be to frustrated in the future that I did not do that. I had no more than \$2,000 and could afford only four hours of studio time. But the engineer in the studio liked what he heard. The next day, I was contacted by agents asking me to get a lawyer and come sign a contract. I didn't even have a name for my ensemble."

Night Ark seemed a natural choice. "Night is the time in which most of these songs were written, and 'ark' is a subtle reference to my homeland and to Noah's ark landing on Mt. Ararat as a vessel of rescue to the world," he explains.

While Dinkjian likes talking about his heritage and the music he writes for Night Ark or other projects, there is one topic he tries to avoid - the business aspect of the music world.

"I love the music and the musicians but when I find out, usually by chance, that my music is used by all kinds of people around the world, most of the time without my knowledge or consent, it's quite frustrating."

Dinkjian is referring to the use of his tunes as theme music to all kinds of television and radio shows, such as the Chamber Quintet (Hahamishya Hakamerit) here in Israel using

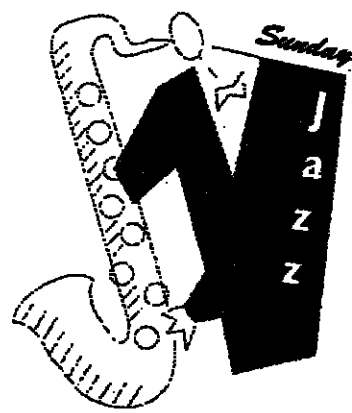
"Homecoming from Night Ark's first album, *Picure*."

"I don't fit into this part of the music scene. I like to perform, but everything around that I like much less."

As strange as it might sound, Dinkjian - like - to record more than to perform before a live audience.

"In a recording, things are more in control. In a performance, things can be frustrating - like a bad piano or balance. Don't get me wrong, though. Making music is very exciting, but the quality of sound is crucial for me, and I cannot compromise on that."

Not for purists



By Calev Ben-David

Some jazz fans have an innate suspicion of cross-genre musical experimentation. There's good reason for that distrust, given some of the vapid results during the past few decades of the jazz-pop "fusion" trend, or the pretentiousness of various attempts to combine classical and jazz.

Still, jazz itself is basically fusion music, and the lines between it and other related musical styles - blues, soul, Broadway, etc. - are often none too clear.

Some healthy pushing out of jazz boundaries is currently going on in the US, with new singers like Cassandra Williams bringing a bluesy style to U2 and Neil Young songs, and old pros like bassist Charlie Haden revisiting the music's folk roots on his most recent albums.

Two new disks typifying this kind of musical inventiveness are

THE SOUND OF SUMMER RUNNING

Marc Johnson

Verve

now out in the stores: one an American import, the other a home-grown Israeli product. Although not for jazz purists, both are well worth a listen.

The former is *The Sound of Summer Running*, featuring the compositions and playing of bassist Marc Johnson. Johnson, who made his chops playing in the late, great pianist Bill Evans' final trio of the 1970s, certainly has the basics down pat. But this is an instrumental album of stylistic daring, a pastoral pastiche of jazz, folk, blues and country swing.

Johnson has chosen two collaborators, quite appropriate for such a venture: guitarists Pat Metheny and Bill Frisell. Metheny has practically made a career living on jazz's musical fringes - with the



The Portugals: Bravely carving a niche in the local jazz market

results not always to everyone's taste, including mine. Fortunately, as in his recent collaboration with Hank Jones, *Beyond the Missouri Sky* (an album which sounds quite similar to *The Sound of Summer Running*), Metheny provides some brilliant acoustic picking.

Frisell was Johnson's partner in the decade-old group Bass Desires, and the two-guitar interplay between him and Metheny, grounded by Johnson's solid bass line, is delightful.

This is a decidedly eclectic album. One goofy ditty, "Dingy Dong Day," which has a beat borrowed from the "surf rock" sound of the Sixties, might have made it as the theme song of a TV series from the same decade.

If *The Sound of Summer Running* sometimes veers a little far off the beaten jazz path, the meat-and-potatoes musicianship of Johnson, Metheny and Frisell bring it back on track.

ALSO ON the cutting edge, albeit in a different way, is *Lefnay Sh'amart*, the latest album from the Israeli duo (and married couple) of pianist Ofer Portugaly and his vocal-drummer wife Iris. Grounded in fundamentals gleaned from studying at Boston's famed Berklee School of Music, the Portugals returned home after a few years of performing in the US, and are bravely trying to carve out a niche for themselves in the limited jazz market here.

The Portugals have said their goal is to create a uniquely Israeli jazz sound. Of the 11 tunes on *Lefnay Sh'amart* ("Before You Told Me"), nine are original compositions.

LEFNAY SH'AMART

"Before You Told Me"

Iris and Ofer Portugaly

Kataik

tions by the couple, with all of the lyrics in Hebrew. The two other cuts are their rendition of a Herbie Hancock piece "Tell Me A Bedtime Story," and a bizarre attempt to combine George Gershwin's melody "A Foggy Day in London Town," with Hebrew lyrics by Alon Oleschik, the Portugals' frequent collaborator. Oleschik relocates the song in Eilat - even though I've never seen any fog there!

Most of the songs are mid-tempo ballads, with the Portugals' musical skills clearly stronger than their lyrical composition. Still, the vocals are well handled by Iris, who - not surprisingly for someone who also trained as a percussionist - has an outstanding rhythmic sense.

It's interesting that in a recent "On My Mind" piece for *The Jerusalem Post*, Iris cited Nancy Wilson as one of her favorites. Like Wilson, she straddles the borderline between pop and jazz - a place the Portugals will probably have to firmly occupy if they hope to find a substantial audience here.

A quiet Shabat

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

While it may seem lazy to describe one singer as being like another, the play is used so often because it generally works, aiding both reviewer and reader to categorize an artist.

As such, one could say that Shlomi Shabat's style is Shlomo Artzi-meets-Pablo-Rosenberg-meets-Micky-Gabrielov. The

SHLOMI SHABAT

Shlomi Shabat

NMC

*** 1/2

important difference is that, for my money, he's better than all three - possibly put together.

Shabat lacks Artzi's pomposity, yet makes music equally pleasing; he avoids Rosenberg's whyness while employing similar thoughtfulness and Latin influences; and he captures a certain spark which Gabrielov often misses while offering up some of the same Mediterranean sensibilities.

This is demonstrated beautifully on Shabat's eponymously titled album in the song "Balaylot" ("At Night"), where he sings about realizing that his lover "is turning the fire into more smoke." The

Latin beat expresses the frustration perfectly as it moves the listener's hips, while Shabat's voice quietly does the same.

Hitting the mark on a song about subtle emotion is not an easy task. Shabat is to be commended for being one of those rare singers who can avoid the temptation to go over the top.

Somewhat surprisingly, Shabat wrote almost all the music but none of the lyrics on the disc. His honest delivery could easily mislead one into believing that he'd written it all.

In "Habitu bi" ("Look at Me"), the words and the music give splendid expression to the tired ache at the end of a relationship: "Look at me! I still haven't left/hold me! even if we've lost each other! All of the days are alike now/and all the nights bitter."

Talk-show host Yair Lapid wrote the sweet lyrics to the album's last track, "Kmo she'bayir" ("As You Were"), proving that chiseled cheek bones and broad shoulders don't preclude a sensitive spirit. The poet in Lapid is no doubt pleased with the gentle treatment his words got at Shabat's hands.

If I have one complaint, it's that this CD feels at times like Shabat shows just a little too much restraint, and is a little too cautious with his talent.

His gifts as a guitarist, composer and singer are unquestionable - he simply has to let himself feel a bit more comfortable using them.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: What well-known commercial features Shlomi Shabat on vocals? A: The Bezeq telephone jingle that goes "Mitzaad ehad ani, mitzaad sheini ata" ("Me at one end, you at the other").

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEKLY CHARTS			ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	6	MICHA SHEETTRIT	MASMERIM VE...
#2	6	3	V/A	AVODA VRIT
#3	NEW	1	ACHINOAM NINI	& PHILHARMONIC ORCH.
#4	3	3	BEN ARTZI	HAIM MESHELL ATZMI
#5	1	5	O.S.T	TITANIC
#6	7	15	HAIM MOSHE	HATMUNOT SHE...
#7	5	6	MADONNA	RAY OF LIGHT
#8	4	8	CELINE DION	LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE
#9	8	15	V/A	JUBILEE CELEBRATION
#10	9	8	ARKADI DUCHIN	COCHAV HAHAVAVA
#11	22	2	DANA INTERNATIONAL	DIVA - BEST OF
#12	NEW	1	PHILIP HERREWEGHE	MASS IN B MINOR
#13	11	3	RITA	TACHANOT BAZMAN
#14	21	2	V/A	GADALNU BEYACHAD
#15	24	7	EMMA SHAPLOM	CARMINE MEO

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

Exodus from Egypt: The animated version

By TOM TUGEND

Prince of Egypt, a full-length animated feature on the life of Moses, won't premiere until December 18, but the publicity buildup is already in full swing.

We now know that among the prodigious feats of computer-generated animation will be 7 million locusts, 16,000 Israelites fleeing Egypt, and a spectacular 4-minute parting of the Red Sea.

Taking no chances, the producers have consulted some 500 religious leaders of all faiths, and the staff includes a full-time liaison to the Jewish community.

The film's look will draw on the epic cinematic style of director David Lean (*Lawrence of Arabia*), the paintings of Impressionist Claude Monet, and the biblical illustrations of the 19th-century French artist Gustave Dore.

The voice of Moses will be actor Val Kilmer, and other voice parts will go to Michelle Pfeiffer and Ralph Fiennes.

When God speaks, He will likely be heard through a combination of voice, sound effects and music.

For DreamWorks, headed by the power trio of Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen, much is at stake.

Since its launch, with much fanfare, three-and-a-half years ago, DreamWorks has not come up with a certified hit, but hopes are riding high on *Prince of Egypt*, nicknamed P.O.E.

In particular, it's up to Katzenberg, who split with the Walt Disney Studio in 1994, to prove that he can equal or surpass his earlier Disney animation hits of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *The Lion King* (wags have dubbed the new 90-minute film "The Zion King").

DreamWorks faces some tough marketing problems with its \$50-\$60 million project. The studio must convince moviegoers that *Prince of Egypt* is not a cartoon for kids but a serious feature for sophisticated adults.

As part of this strategy, Katzenberg has vowed to fight a

possible G (suitable for all ages) rating and insist on a PG label (parental guidance, some material unsuitable for children).

To avoid being taken as a preachy religious tract, the Moses saga is being promoted as the ultimate action-adventure, pitting Moses against Pharaoh Ramses.

The lofty subject of the film will preclude marketing a line of gimmicky merchandise tie-ins, which sometimes bring in more money than the movie itself.

"There will be no burning bush night-lights, no Red Sea shower curtains that split in the middle, and no 40-days-in-the-desert water bottles," promises Sandra Rabins, one of the film's producers.

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Helmuth Rilling

conductor

Soile Isokoski, soprano

Stela Doufexis, alto

Gunnar Gudbjornsson, tenor

Hernan Iturralde, bass

Gächinger Kantorei Choir

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Bruckner:

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Psalm 150

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Anarchy as democracy

Russian Prime Minister-designate Sergei Kiriyenko this weekend finds himself in the peculiar position of running a country whose parliament has twice rejected him. His authority comes only from the instructions left by President Boris Yeltsin, without formal hand-over procedures, before he left for his informal visit to Japan. It is government by messenger boy.

Democracy in Russia looks more and more like an unruly plant that is busily growing seeds for its own destruction. Much of the blame must go to the cavalier attitude Yeltsin has increasingly adopted to his duties as president of the new Russia. It is reaching a point where his departure will become vital for the survival of what is left of the nation's fragile democratic system.

The Duma on Friday refused to endorse Yeltsin appointee Kiriyenko for the second time, leaving a constitutional power vacuum should the 67-year-old Yeltsin be unable to carry out his duties. This raises particular worries for the rest of the world about who would control the button linked to Russia's decrepit nuclear forces. A prime minister is not a prime minister unless he is endorsed by parliament.

At 271 votes to 115, the Duma rejected Kiriyenko by an even greater margin the second time than it did the first time (186-143). Yeltsin immediately renominated Kiriyenko for a third time, saying that if that fails, he will dissolve parliament and call general elections. Duma deputies now have a week to ponder whether the principle of rejecting Kiriyenko again is worth losing their soft jobs in a harsh economic climate. The situation has several points worth of note — none of them likely to bathe Russian democracy or its institutions in a rosy glow. First, there is the inexperienced 35-year-old Kiriyenko himself. Although he appears a competent enough banker and bureaucrat, an intelligent, inoffensive man — his performance at the podium of the Duma was about as inspiring as a mouse trying to win over a convention of alley cats with "the charisma of a birch tree," as a Russian columnist wrote.

Kiriyenko had lobbied hard to win support that would improve his second round vote and won even fewer votes for his efforts. He met with Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov before the vote and, even considering the self-interest of this vocal opponent of Yeltsin, it is hard to fault his assessment of Kiriyenko as "a person who has no team, no program, and no experience."

A majority of Duma members agreed with Zyuganov that parliament is now "hostage to a dead constitution and an absolutely incapable president." But then, the Duma itself, already

gutted by the constitutional powers granted to the president, is more likely to make a public spectacle of itself by voting for Kiriyenko on the third round. It does so, after all the fine words, the entire country will know it is doing so out of deputies' own selfish concerns. So, as well as that "dead constitution and incapable president," Russians will know they also have a licksplit parliament.

As for Yeltsin, here is the man who stood atop a tank in 1991 to face down those who wanted a return to the Soviet past. Now he has sunk so low as to become a cynical wheeler-dealer with the destiny of his nation. It does not take Delphic powers of prophecy to suggest that if the Duma comes to heel on the third vote for Kiriyenko, it will not be long before Yeltsin's new protégé becomes his new irritant. If he trembles before the president, he will be fired as a wimpy annoyance. If he attacks the job with vigor and innovation, he will be fired for getting ideas above his station. Yeltsin's peremptory dismissal of his entire cabinet, including prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, was the sort of czarist whim Russia no longer needs. As one satirical Russian commentator asked: "What next? A horse as consul?"

Parliament is tied up for almost three weeks with the machinations of choosing an unsuitable prime minister. Few countries with fewer problems could afford the luxury of this massive waste of public money and public representatives' time. Russia certainly cannot. Many of the workers that have jobs across the vast hinterland are unpaid.

Unfortunately, Yeltsin's winning of this second and lame-duck term in office may have come at a higher price than a few billion wasted rubles and a few million poorer lives. Several hundreds of millions of dollars the Yeltsin campaign borrowed from the richest of Russia's rich have been paid back through corrupt deals in the disposal of Russia's prime assets. The super-tycos — no more than a dozen — now control oil, gas, electricity, mining, construction, infrastructure, and heavy industry. Worse, their money is buying out the nation's media. Their money and media influence will soon be at work grooming their favorite pork-barrel candidates for the next round of alleged Russian democracy in the post-Yeltsin era.

The analogy of Yeltsin as an emperor appointing his horse to public office may be in the realm of satire, but an analogy of fiddling while the state burns fits uncomfortably well. Most of Russia's new or evolving institutions are a joke. The Duma may become one if it now feebly endorses Kiriyenko after making such a fuss about it. A democracy close to anarchy is a democracy close to collapse.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMPTY RHETORIC

Sir, — In "Empty rhetoric" (March 22), David Kutab sanctimoniously cites the Netanyahu government's seeming defiance of UN resolutions. For good measure, he also reminds us "that even the United States demands that Israel suspend settlement activities in occupied territories, including East Jerusalem."

Obviously, Kutab believes it is only Israel who must abide by international laws and agreements. Typically, he chooses to turn a blind eye to the fact that the leader of the "Palestinians," Yasser Arafat, the other signatory to the Oslo Accords, continues to harbor murderous Arab terrorists who killed countless Jews in nefarious attacks and refuses, as stipulated in the agreement, to turn them over to Israel for trial. Arafat has also built up a police and military force far in excess of the number allowed by Oslo; continues to call for a "jihad" to replace the Jewish state with a Palestinian state and threatens to renew the "uprising"

if his demands for more concessions are not met. These and other blatant violations are conveniently overlooked in Kutab's seemingly endless "j'accuse" against Israel.

As for Kutab's assertion that Israel must "accept the basic conditions for peace, namely to stop settlement activity and redeploy from the West Bank and Gaza, and thus enjoy the favor of the international community..." may I remind him that Israel usually enjoys such "favor" from the world only when it comes in the form of collective sympathy after a Holocaust.

Therefore, I would advise Kutab to remember the famous quotation uttered by a former Israeli ambassador to the UN "We would much rather have their condemnation — than their condolences."

SHIFRA HOFFMAN,
Founder and President,
Victims of Arab Terror

Jerusalem.

SPORT APARTHEID

Sir, — All athletes must be allowed to compete regardless of race, religion, ideology or nationality. These are the stated principles of the IAAF.

When Morocco bid for the championships they accepted these principles and therefore lied to the international sporting community when

they refused to grant Israeli athletes visas to compete in last month's world cross-country championships. Morocco should be severely punished by the IAAF for practicing "sport apartheid."

JAMES HARARI

Hod Hasharon.

LOCAL CRIMINALS

Sir, — With reference to the 17-year-old American wanted for murder in the United States, I'd like to make the following remarks. Since the trial hasn't yet taken place, it would be inappropriate to refer to the youth as a murderer.

However, of far graver public danger are the comments of his astute defense attorney David Liba'i. Liba'i requests that the youth stand trial in the US, and if found guilty he should serve his sentence here in Israel. According to David Liba'i "the youth feared for his life in a US jail."

As a resident and citizen of Israel, I fear for the lives of all Israelis if this youth is found guilty of the heinous crime for which he is going to be tried and then allowed to be imprisoned here.

We have enough home-grown "scum" who are allowed weekend leaves at home with their families, whilst serving prison sentences for murder. Witness the recent case of the youth from "a good family" who murdered an innocent taxi-driver, and recently utilized his free weekend by carrying out a violent robbery.

ANNE KAYE

Kedumim.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 19, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported on the ceremony of dedication of the great, new buildings of the Y.M.C.A. in Jerusalem. The buildings stood out in all their grandeur with the colors of all nations, the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes predominating. The Jewish colors were conspicuously absent.

50 years ago: On April 19, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported

that heavy attacks were made on the Neve Ya'acov settlement, four kilometers north of Jerusalem on the Ramallah road, when Arabs fortified by four armored Arab Legion cars pounded the settlement with cannon and automatic fire. On the same day the Jewish Agency accused Britain of handing over to the Arab Legion "abnormally high" quantities of military stores, arms and other equipment.

25 years ago: On April 19, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Deputy Premier Yigal Allon's plan for a strip of Israeli settlements along the West Bank of the Jordan River and the western shore of the Dead Sea, reaching as far as Kiryat Arba, could form the basis of a peace settlement on the Jordanian border.

Alexander Zvielli



Don't give up

TONY BLAIR

President Clinton regularly in recent days about Northern Ireland and we have also discussed the Middle East peace process.

WE must, of course, address the central problems of the past if an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is to be based on solid ground. We cannot, for example, ignore the fact that some three-and-a-half million Palestinians are refugees. I will be visiting a

My own experience has taught me that the search for peace is never easy

camp in Gaza to see their plight for myself. But equally, we cannot pretend that Palestinian terrorism has not affected the Israeli attitude towards the peace process.

Successful peace negotiations require flexibility, imagination and a stubborn determination to succeed. Israelis and Palestinians have both demonstrated such qualities on many occasions since the beginning of the Oslo process. That is why the present deadlock is so frustrating.

We are now working on areas where the EU can help move the process forward. I hope to use my visit to narrow gaps, particularly on the interim economic issues. These will be vital in helping to create the economic conditions for peace to succeed. Assisting Palestinian economic development would give the peace process a major boost. Opening the Gaza airport and the

Gaza industrial estate could make a real difference to this.

But it cannot be a substitute for progress on the key issues of land-for-peace, and making sure the commitments made at Oslo and Hebron are carried through as well as resumption of final status talks. I will be urging all sides to make new efforts to work with the US on these issues.

None of this can succeed without trust. This means not least convincing the Israelis that the Palestinian Authority is doing all it can to combat terrorism. During my visit to Gaza I hope to follow up on the plans for an EU/Palestinian Security Committee discussed during Robin Cook's recent visit. The EU already provides finance expertise and equipment to help the Palestinians develop their counter-terrorism capability and to enable them to fight terrorism more effectively.

I shall also be talking both to Israeli and Palestinian school children. Ultimately, the peace process is about them. These children are divided by their past. The peace process offers them the chance of a common future. We should not let that slip through our fingers.

There have been plenty of times when people told me the peace process in Northern Ireland was pointless, that there was nothing anybody could do, that we should simply give up. But the minute you accept defeat you accept that you can't ever make progress.

My own experience has taught me that the search for peace is never easy and that there will be many disappointments along the way. But we must all keep trying. The present peace process still offers the best chance for a better future.

Pull the plug

DAVID WEINBERG

require teenagers to venture beyond the bedroom! And there's usually no music disk or video outlets in these places.

Parents need to know and think carefully about all this. Don't underestimate the power of self-operated hi-tech entertainment, because today's youth heroes come from the world of computers and TV — not the ballpark, the

Do we really want our kids growing up in a virtual entertainment world?

older guys in the neighborhood or the youth group leader.

There's little inter-personal communication involved here, because stereo and e-mail accounts are run out the bedroom, not the playground.

And our kids become ever more exposed to everything early on — not only sex and violence, but consumerism and materialism too, which dominate the electronic media.

Well, at least kids magazines and books are still popular, you say. Not exactly. The average teenager spends only 48 minutes a day reading, with the most popular books being a horror story series called *Tzomoret* or sci-fi horror fantasies. *Ma'ariv Lanoar* magazine is doing very well, but Cindy Bar in underwear adorns this week's cover, and most of the content is similar pop pulp, with little educational value.

TWO researchers at Haifa University's education department, Orit Eshbal and Ella

Alexandri, recently dissected and deconstructed Israeli children's magazines, with distressing results. These magazines, they write, do their best not to educate their young readerships toward anything. They try hard to keep the language shallow and content low-brow, promote materialism and affluence, and glorify life in the fast lane.

Everything in these children's periodicals revolves around the present tense, with no references to the past (such as Zionist or Jewish history) and no thought of the future. "Multiculturalism" is sanctified, meaning that there are basically no references to Israel, to Jewish holidays or even to the Middle East. There are no pictures of Israeli landscapes, and no references to quality Hebrew literature. Everyone in the magazines is young, white, and references to grown-ups or families as significant values.

Reviewing these findings, one commentator lamented that in these magazines "competitiveness is glorified, prying is encouraged, television is venerated. And the main message is: anything goes. Nothing can be dictated. There are no absolute truths." And I ask: Can't better magazines be produced for Israeli children?

Don't we want our kids to go to the old-fashioned library, where educated librarians choose the books and help kids make intelligent choices? Isn't there some decent community goodworks or volunteerism that teenagers ought to be involved in? And how about a little values or current affairs discussion around the dinner table (that's in the dining room, not the bedroom)?

Do we really want our kids growing up in a virtual entertainment world where we have no control? Shouldn't our kids be getting their own televisions? Isn't it time, so to speak, to pull the plug

AIPAC on the Right

DANIEL BLOCH

AIPAC, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, is one of the most powerful political organizations in Washington. Sometimes it seems to get drunk with power. There is a danger of overkill, especially in cases like organizing members of Congress against the president and his administration.

Their power is so overbearing that nobody dares refuse them. Even our prime minister was ready to be absent from the ceremonial swearing-in of Israel's president because of his scheduled appearance at the annual meeting of AIPAC. Luckily, he changed his plans, as no prime minister can be absent from this ceremony, whether he likes President Weizman or not.

There is no doubt that Netanyahu owes more to AIPAC than to Weizman, not only because of its current total support of his policies but also because of its reluctance to support the policies of his predecessors, Rabin and Peres.

AIPAC's operations were always based on the assumption that as the pro-Israel lobby in Washington it supports the policies of any democratically elected government in Israel, whether or not the leadership agrees with their policies.

The support should not mean ignoring other voices in the Israeli political spectrum. The political action of this organization should be geared in support of the Israeli government.

Only twice has AIPAC departed from this sensible and logical policy: At the time of the national unity government of Peres and Shamir, AIPAC preferred the policies of the Likud and helped Shamir block Peres's ideas of an international peace conference and the implementation of his 1987 London agreement with King Hussein. The second time was after the Oslo Accords, when AIPAC did not lobby the Congress in support of Rabin's peace initiatives via a visit to the Palestinians and the Syrians.

Some of AIPAC's officials tacitly helped the anti-peace lobbying efforts of several ministries of the Likud, such as Yossi Ben-Aharon and Yoram Ephraim.

I believe that Israelis, Right or Left, should not lobby against their elected government in Congress, the White House or the State Department. American Jews are, of course, free to voice their opinion as any other citizens, but Israelis should fight their political and ideological battles at home, not abroad.

Clinton and Albright do not need letters from the Israeli peace movements. They receive daily reviews of the Israeli press and know the results of Israeli public opinion polls. They surely know that a clear majority of Israelis support the continuation of the peace process, including further withdrawals. They also know that these policies are not necessarily reflected in the parliamentary situation of the present coalition.

AIPAC does not recognize this situation and tries, with the help of Israel's de-facto ambassador to the US, Dore Gold, to hide the fact that there are other voices in Israel's political spectrum. Therefore no opposition leader is invited to address one of the main events of this annual meeting.

Perhaps AIPAC is afraid the senators and congressmen will hear a slightly different voice from Israel? There is a tendency on Capitol Hill to sign any letter originating from AIPAC's offices automatically, even if it says that the sun revolves around the earth. American politicians believe that their Jewish campaign financing depends on AIPAC and that this organization could immediately mobilize support for their reelection bids.

They might be surprised to learn that the majority of American Jewish voters do not necessarily support right-wing extremism and their preferences at the polling booths will not automatically follow "any instructions from the AIPAC leadership."

AIPAC's tactics are wrong. It should not be a vehicle of the conservative Right, causing a rift between Congress and the administration over Israel. You can never know who will win the next congressional or presidential elections. And no administration has ever changed its policies towards Israel because of the Jewish lobby. Change always came after some policy shift in Jerusalem, such as Shimon Peres going to Madrid or Netanyahu acquiescing to the Hebron pullout.

AIPAC should be more representative of American Jewish public opinion and reflect all the mainstream political views of Israelis without antagonizing the administration or Congress. It does not necessarily serve the interests of Netanyahu. He needs a moderate amount of American pressure in order to persuade his coalition that there is no alternative but the continuation of the peace process.



(Above) Edward Hopper: 'Evening Wind,' etching, 1921 (\$25,000-\$35,000 at Sotheby's New York, April 30); (Left) Diane Arbus: 'Identical Twins,' sold at Sotheby's New York for \$74,000

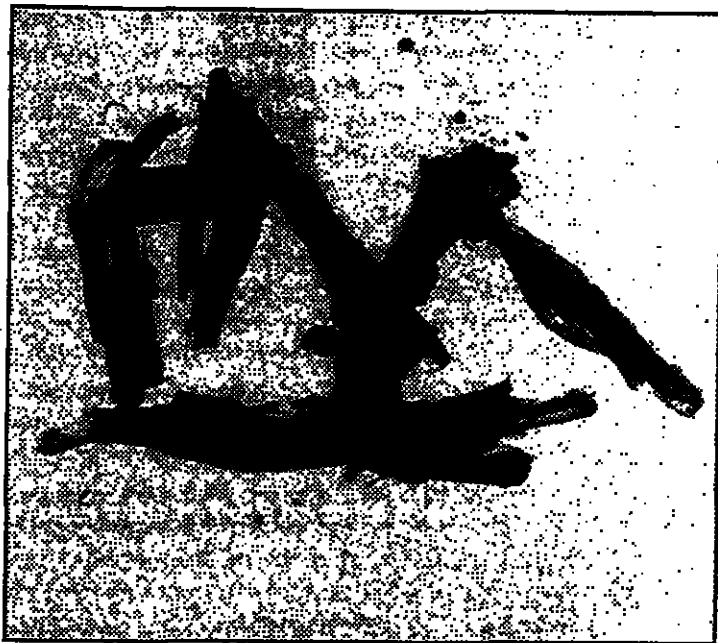
Big money in photographs

AT THE AUCTIONS

Results of Sotheby's and Christie's spring sales held in Tel Aviv last week were unavailable as the holiday deadline for this column came around. Some of the results appear in our news pages, but an extensive report on the sales will appear in our next column.

IT'S LITTLE wonder that American galleries are switching to sales of photography. Prices are overtaking those of much contemporary painting. A Sotheby's sale of photography in New York on April 7 saw a staggering 82.7 percent of the lots sold for \$3.4 million, nearly 92% of the value. An auction record was set when the late Edward Westinghouse's 'Tenth Doubled its median estimate at an amazing \$266,500. Almost the same sum was obtained for a Man Ray album. The famous 'Identical Twins' by the late Diane Arbus made an expected \$74,000. Other Westons like 'Shells and Nude on Sand' went for \$101,500 and \$40,250 respectively. The equally famous 'Moonrise, New Mexico' by the late Ansel Adams went well over its best estimate at \$48,300.

SOTHEBY'S LONDON will hold a sale of superb Oriental Manuscripts and Miniatures on April 29, and Islamic Works of Art the following day. Leaves from Korans and complete books are on offer, all superb, to judge by the catalog. A good Koran may run to £70,000, like lot 21, a mid-16th century Ottoman Koran in illuminated Arabic. Some leaves are like abstract paintings, notably lot 6, a page in kufic script on vellum, possibly from North Africa (£7,000-£10,000). A previously unrecorded manuscript of the 'Kitab Suwar al-Kawakib' of famed astronomer Abu'l-Husain Abd al-Rahman bin Umar al-Sufi (903-986), copied and illustrated in early 12th century Baghdad, mixes Islamic science and art and



Robert Motherwell: 'Lament for Lorca,' color lithograph, 1983 (\$2,000-\$3,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 2) has an estimate of £80,000-£120,000. Indian miniatures are also a feature of this sale. Ottoman and Indian pottery, metalware, weapons and jewelry feature in the Islamic sale. The Mughal jewelry is particularly spectacular, with most items ranging between £2,500-£8,000 in estimate. A rare Fatimid abstract ivory chess piece (the bishop), from 10th-11th century Egypt, is a tiny item with a big estimate: £12,000-£15,000.

THE STRENGTH of tradition is evident in the April 27 sale at Sotheby's Hong Kong of Modern and Contemporary Chinese paintings, most of them based on classical traditions. For over 600 years Chinese painters learned by copying their betters over and over again, but eventually trying variations of composition and devising their own style of calligraphy. Some wonderful items in this show, like lot 22 by Ding Yanyong (1902-78) featuring a bird on a branch in a superb gestural painting in ink and color on paper, manage to look both classical and modern (around \$5,000). A few others are communist kitsch or the Chinese version of Norman

Rockwell done freehand, but there are splendid items too, like the fabulous gestural abstractions of Lu Shoukun (1919-75) which take plants or landscapes merely as a point of departure (lots 116, 117: \$5,000-\$9,000).

GREAT PRINT shows at Sotheby's New York are in the offing: Old Master, 19th and 20th century prints on April 30, followed by a sale of contemporaries on May 2. They don't come cheap. A suite of 14 early etchings by Picasso has a best estimate of half a million dollars; a Mary Cassatt aquatint in color \$120,000; a bold Miro around \$60,000; and among many expensive Matisse lithographs, some gestural Matisse aquatints of simplified heads at up to \$10,000 each. There are dozens of late Picasso wood and lino cuts at around \$10,000-\$12,000 and many of his ceramics (most of which are not from his hand) at around \$2,500-\$3,500. The rarest of the Lautrec lithographs will run up to \$40,000. Actually, there's something for everyone in the more than 700 lots.

The contemporary sale offers a wide range of works by the late Sam Francis (best around



Pablo Picasso: 'La Femme au Tambourin,' etching and aquatint, 1938 (top estimate around \$250,000 at both Christie's and Sotheby's print sales in New York)

\$10,000; David Hockney, notably his litho-silkscreen and collage of a Celia image (\$50,000-\$70,000); Roy Lichtenstein ('The Melody Haunts My Reverie,' \$25,000-\$30,000); and some gestural works by Robert Motherwell (\$1,000-\$9,000) that derive from the Chinese painting mentioned above.

Prints of a famous Picasso etching and aquatint 'La Femme au Tambourin' 1938, from the same edition of 30, are being offered at both Sotheby's and Christie's (April 27/28) New York print sales. This superb image has a hopeful top estimate of around \$250,000. I haven't received the Christie's catalog.

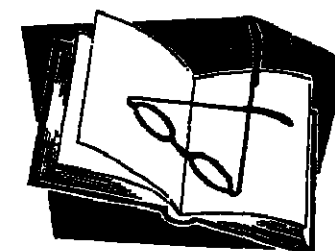
Prints from the same image by Mary Cassatt are also to be sold by both Sotheby's and Christie's at these print sales. Cassatt's 'The Bath,' 1890-91, is a drypoint,

acquaint and softground etching, and the color of each print therefore varies. Like many Cassatt etchings, this mother and child has a distinct Japanese feel. The Sotheby's print, signed in pencil, has an estimate of \$40,000-\$60,000.

In the Old Master section of the Sotheby's print sale are a dozen amazing Rembrandt etchings, notably a sensual burin and drypoint of a lustful old Jupiter uncovering the sleeping Antiope (\$7,000-\$9,000); and a 1656 burin and drypoint portrait of the famous goldsmith Jan Lutma (\$40,000-\$60,000). A number of fine Goya etchings are also on offer, including examples from 'The Disasters of War' and the 'Tauromachia' that inspired Picasso. The wide-ranging catalog is replete with over 700 superb images.

A meaner society

Book Review



By Bill Kevoney

The Argument Culture: From Debate to Dialogue
By Deborah Tannen
(Random House, \$25, 290 pp.)

In *The Argument Culture*, author Deborah Tannen makes the right argument, but it often falls short of being a good one. Tannen is concerned about a growing "culture of critique" that tears down instead of building up. She describes how our major institutions increasingly view every inter-

where's the evidence? That kind of statement is one of the weaknesses of Tannen's book. More than a few times she doesn't provide strong enough support for her assertions, or relies on anecdotes or the observations of others to back up her points. (The book also includes a glaring mistake: a reference to Walter Mondale running for president against Richard Nixon, rather than Ronald Reagan.)

Citing the work of a political analyst, Tannen stakes out a strong position - "It is becoming almost impossible to get qualified people to serve in public positions" - without offering any supporting proof.

At times she is guilty of the cynicism she deplores. In describing how news coverage played a role in the suicide of Navy Chief of Staff Jeremy "Mike" Boorda, Tannen takes issue with a *Newsweek* columnist who said that Boorda, by talking to reporters, could have

The author describes how major institutions increasingly view every interaction as a fight, referring to most matters in warlike terms and coarsening society in the process.

action as a fight, referring to most matters in warlike terms and coarsening society in the process.

Societal changes, which chip away at family and community, isolate many people, creating an atmosphere of anonymity that creates fertile ground for hostility.

A formula for road rage, perhaps? Technology aggravates the situation, making it easier to attack. Many people are more hostile via e-mail, "flaming" their correspondents, for instance, than they would be in face-to-face conversations, Tannen says.

On those points, there's no disagreement here with Tannen, a Georgetown University linguist and author of the best-selling *Talking From 9 to 5* and *You Just Don't Understand*.

Our society has a problem, and *The Argument Culture* is a great name for it. But, as a result of her previous work and a groundswell of cultural analysis, it seems like we've visited much of this territory before.

The fields Tannen faults - journalism, politics, the law and, to a lesser degree, academia - are clearly complicit in creating a meaner society. There are structural weaknesses, including expanding media outlets obsessed with scandal and the adversarial process in law, which yields winners and losers, but often not the truth.

Tannen presents President Clinton as a victim of this culture. To her credit, Tannen acknowledges she is a Democrat, but she denies being an "apologist" for Clinton. That defending the president would create such an appearance is evidence of a society where "only criticizing seems like worthy intellectual work," she writes.

She may be right, but

defused a critical article.

He "may well have been aware of instances in which public figures succeeded in talking journalists out of proceeding with plans to expose them, but I doubt there are many citizens who believe such an outcome is likely," Tannen writes.

Tannen's assessment is likely influenced by her Washington perspective. Overly aggressive media and go-for-the-jugular political tactics are most prevalent in the nation's capital, the setting for many of Tannen's examples.

Although Tannen places blame on journalism, politics and the legal system, she also looks at broader social influences, as when she describes gender differences in communication. Her expertise seems stronger there than with the major institutions, which are presented broadly as monoliths.

The gender chapter, which details male aggressiveness, is useful, as is one on communication and social rituals in other countries. Its examples create a clearer perspective on America's win-lose society.

She also provides some fairly simple, but attainable solutions to slow our confrontational frenzy. We should try to see important political, social and cultural matters from all sides rather than just two sides - the traditional perspective of journalism and politics that tends to polarize debate.

We should also move away from an antagonistic response - a reflexively aggressive stance - because it simply isn't called for in many situations. Cutting back the use of military and sports metaphors might help a bit there, Tannen writes. Those who are sick of such pervasive metaphors would heartily agree.

(The Hartford Courant)

What is the cost of nature's services?

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Nature provides humankind with a variety of services of almost inestimable value. But because there is no formal pricing of what we usually consider "free" services, their value is not calculated, as part of the gross national product in any country. Because these services are free they are taken for granted, neglected and in many cases destroyed. Among these services are water filtration, soil erosion prevention, climate control, and crop pollination and recreation, not to mention providing habitats for a variety of plants and animals often beneficial to the human race.

In a recent bulletin, the Washington D.C. think-tank

Worldwatch addresses these economically valuable services.

One of the most striking is water filtration. The city of New York, for example, depends on upstate watersheds for the filtration and purification of its drinking water. When these natural draining systems are destroyed by development, this filtration ability is lost. To replace them with a modern treatment facility would cost the area's taxpayers some \$7 billion dollars. It comes as no surprise that New York has decided to invest only 10 percent of that amount to help upstate counties protect these vital watersheds.

Pollination of crops is another function that is usually considered to be free, but with the number of insect pollinators declining every year as entire species of bees and others disappear because of pesticide abuses, the results are already being felt in some sectors. The cotton growing states in the US report an annual \$400 m. loss because of the lack of adequate pollination. Melon growers too are feeling the loss.

Forest fires deliberately ignited by logging companies in

Indonesia during the last two years have cost dearly. Air flights are cancelled daily because of the smoke. Tourism has slowed to a trickle and the use of forest areas for recreational purposes simply does not exist on many of the damaged islands. Some economists have assessed the damage at \$1.5 billion a year. This is a staggering figure when one takes into account that this loss will continue over a number of years and that the anticipated income from lands newly cleared through burning is only slightly over \$1 b.

In an effort to show the value of these ostensibly free services, economist Robert Costanza of the University of Maryland's Institute for Ecological Economics has been studying their real costs. He figures their annual value at about \$33 trillion. Compare this to the world-wide gross domestic product, which is only \$25 t.

But until we put a price tag on these vital services there is every chance that we will go right on wasting and destroying them. As Costanza says "the best things in life are free, that is, until you have to either pay for them or do without them."

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No, it's not a luxury hotel – it's a science center

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

If any building can dispel the notion that being employed in industry is "dirty work," it is the spanking new \$35 million Beck Science Center in Jerusalem's Har Hotzvim industrial park.

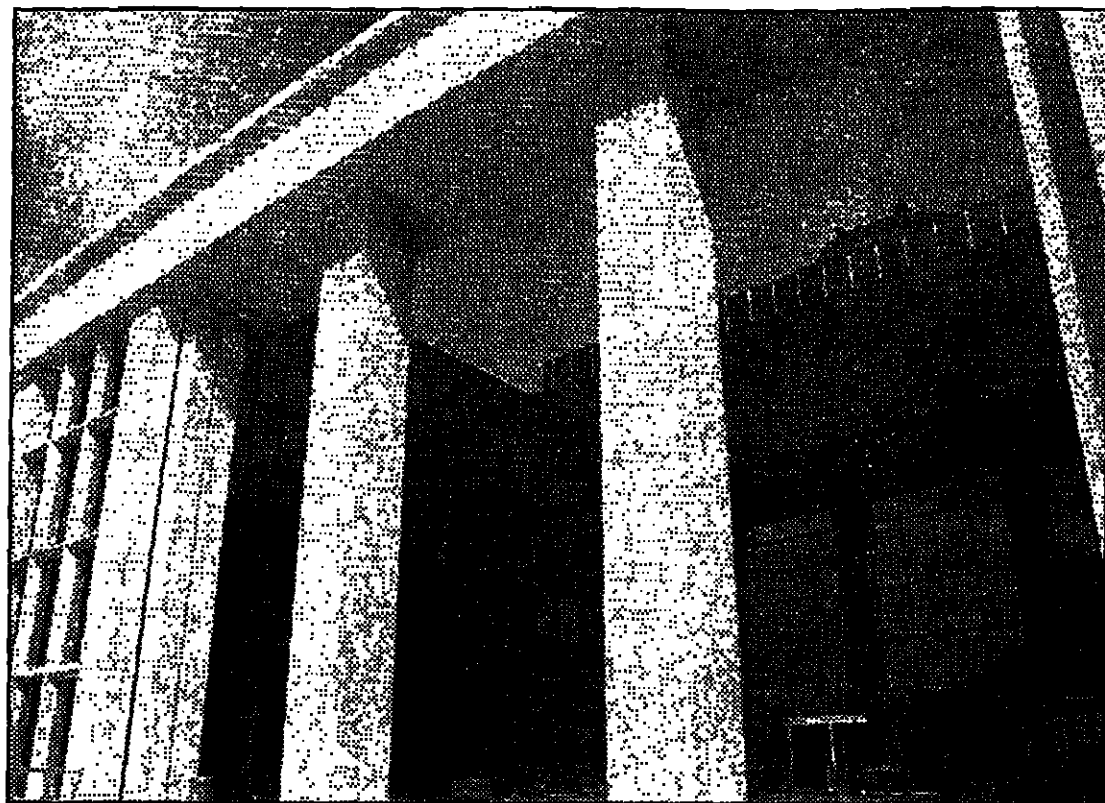
With its Jerusalem-stone facing, large expanses of blue-green glass, sculpted-concrete pillars and eye-catching dome rising 22 meters above a 700-square-meter lobby, the project looks like a five-star hotel plunked down in the wrong place.

Graham Beck and his wife Rhona, among the richest Jews in South Africa, had never invested in Israel before (except for buying some stock in the Israel Corporation), let alone gotten involved in technology. The owners of South African coal mines, a giant racehorse breeding farm, a chain of department stores, a winery and prime real estate in the US and England, they were major donors to the Weizmann Institute, Bar-Ilan University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

But Beck, a sentimental man who broke down in tears at the center's recent opening ceremony and has a great-grandfather buried on the Mt. of Olives nearby, is overjoyed that he now has a place of his own in the capital.

"There isn't a facility like it even in my country," he says happily. "It's a unique building. It will certainly raise the status of industry and attract qualified personnel." The project is one of the largest-ever financial investments in Israel by a single foreign investor. "I was never interested in high-tech, and one can't say I'm an Einstein," said the one-time coal miner in an interview. "But I know that what Israel has to offer is brains. I thought a center like this could serve to concentrate and encourage Israeli brainpower."

The Becks, who have two sons and brought nearly their whole extended family from South



Architectural eye-catcher: Beck believes his center will help concentrate and encourage Israeli brainpower.

Africa and England to the sumptuous dinner in the building's lobby, say they hope the project will inspire other Diaspora Jews to follow in their footsteps.

MUCH OF THE credit must go to Prof. Harry Brand, a Technion lecturer who was the architect of the building. (The company that erected it is called Beck-Tech.) Brand has designed many of the country's facilities, from the Tefen Industrial Park in the Galilee to Jerusalem's Malha Industrial Park.

The chief contracting firm was Peretz G.G. Engineers, which built Jerusalem's admirable Supreme Court Building and carried out the project on the grounds of the Bahai Center in Haifa. The

outside lighting was designed by Roland Joel of France, planner of the pyrotechnic extravaganza at the Old City walls for Jerusalem's 3,000 anniversary celebrations.

WHEN THE ground-breaking ceremony was held at the site in October 1995 – before 50,000 square meters of earth were dug up and trucked to a wadi in northern Jerusalem – Beck said he had no idea whether he'd make or lose money on the center. But at the opening he seemed not to have a worry in the world: 70 percent of the 21,000 square meters of space for clean industrial enterprises has already been rented at \$14 a square meter per month.

The first tenants are P.S. Publishing Ltd., a subsidiary of

the Orek Group (one of the largest software companies in Israel); Medinol Ltd., which makes stents (metallic supports that keep coronary arteries open after angioplasty); and FoxCom Ltd., which specializes in satellite communications. A number of other companies have rented smaller areas in the building.

Whoever the employees are – at the end of the day, they probably won't want to go home. The facilities are very comfortable and luxurious, complete with four speedy, glass-walled elevators, a 600-vehicle parking lot, a health club and a 224-seat cafeteria offering subsidized (NIS 22) meals that look like hotel food.

Beck-Tech managing director Ram Rhone (a former IDF

brigadier-general who has been a close friend of the Becks for two decades) was on site every day for two-and-a-half years to ensure high standards and careful implementation.

Jerusalem's former city engineer, Ehud Tayar, who was project manager, says Beck constantly intervened to raise the standard of the building, and didn't spare a penny; in fact, at the groundbreaking ceremony Beck said the project would cost \$25 million.

The atrium and the two four-storied wings are based on a steel construction purchased in South Africa and erected by Koor Metal. With Jerusalem's image increasingly becoming that of a poor city with a burgeoning population of haredim who study but do not work, there was little wonder that Mayor Ehud Olmert was so bubbly at the opening. The growing number of high-tech industrial parks in the city will provide workplaces for university graduates and other highly trained personnel.

The first two phases of Har Hotzvim have been completed, and now the Jerusalem Development Authority is planning the third and fourth phases to bring in more high-tech industry.

The tall, gray-haired businessman believes the Beck center will be an important source of employment to academically trained personnel in Jerusalem. "This is just what Jerusalem needs – it's one of the world's great cities," Beck declares.

He could easily have built his high-tech complex elsewhere in the country – but there was a personal connection.

BECK'S family history would make a good historical novel.

His great-grandfather (the one buried on the Mt. of Olives) was a Jerusalem carpenter who built furniture for synagogues. His son, Yeshaya Mizrahi, was forced by his parents – at 15 – to marry an

18-year-old girl. He fathered two children, but fled his unfortunate marriage seven years later to England, where he became a rabbi.

In 1880 he moved to South Africa as the first rabbi of the Jewish community in Transvaal. There he met Beck's grandmother, who had arrived from Latvia. Yeshaya anglicized his family name to East, set up a fisheries company and built an orphanage for Jewish children in Capetown. Beck's father was a local stockbroker.

When Beck finished his university studies in business after the Korean War, he had difficulty finding a job and, with no alternative, worked as a coal miner in a mine owned by one of his father's clients. Soon he became the mine's manager and began to buy

and sell other mines throughout South Africa. By now a rich man, he diversified into race horse breeding, wineries and yacht-building.

Although born a Jew, Beck says he never felt he was one until his first visit to Jerusalem in 1966.

"I took a taxi to the city, which was surrounded by the Jordanians. The taxi driver, who learned it was my first visit, stopped the car, put a yarmulka on my head and insisted that I say a *Shehehiyanu* blessing before we entered. I became a Jew."

A "born optimist," Beck is enthusiastic about Israel's brainpower and its "mauring economy." I definitely think Israel has a wonderful future. It's a society with a difference. Jews will come from all over the world to live and work here."



Graham and Rhona Beck: a place of their own in the capital (Morgan Photography)

The car that won't run out of steam

By JAMES O. CLIFFORD

REDWOOD CITY, California – It's the future, not the past, that makes Jim Crank look lovingly at his restored 1925 Doble, a big, powerful car that could easily steal the scene in a movie about prohibition gangsters.

One of only 20 ever made, the car is run by a power plant Crank thinks could be decisive in the world's hunt for a cheap, pollution-free way to get around.

Pop open the hood and take a look: inside is what seems to be a big kitchen pot, but is actually a boiler.

The Doble is a steam-driven car, its boiler fueled by just about anything – including kitchen grease – with little harm to the environment. In an era of electric cars and so-called hybrids that captivate the motor show crowd, a few people think the steam engine, a variant of the one that came and went early in this century, could be America's best-kept automotive secret.

Crank is one of the most fervent believers. He has bought up turbines and other equipment that past inventors have used and even designed a steam car which, he claims, was clocked at 233 kph. "It has fast acceleration, good speed and good range, especially when compared to the electric car," the 62-year-old retired engineer says about steam cars. "The electric is a joke for anything except short run, flat-land city shopping."

DOBLE and other steam cars – including The Stanley Motor Carriage Company's famous Stanley Steamer – were common when the gasoline car and the electric was popular with little old ladies, Crank said.

Steam moved trains, ships and scores of other machines, including elevators and printing presses. As for the steam car, it didn't fail, but was superseded by the internal combustion engine.

That was then, and this is now. Today the gasoline car's advantages – efficiency and economy – are increasingly weighed against drawbacks such as pollution and the cost of fuel. The steam car demands only water and just about any liquid fuel, even kerosene.

"The fuel doesn't have to undergo expensive processing like it does for the internal combustion engine," said Crank.

Early on, the steam car was hampered by the timing of crucial engineering developments. At first it was a prisoner of the 20 to 45 minutes needed to fire up the boiler, while gas-powered cars had to be cranked manually into life.

Then in 1912 Cadillac came out with a reliable self-starter, allowing gas engines to take a huge lead. In 1916, Doble introduced a starting breakthrough for its steam car – it started right up with no waiting

– but by that time, the gasoline car had the market cornered.

"These cars were too late, very expensive, and too few were produced for them to make any dent in the success of the gasoline-engined motorcar," Crank said.

He should know: He is the Doble Steam Motors Corporation, a San Francisco firm that went out of business in 1933.

A few years back, Crank came up with \$200 and did the paperwork needed to gain the title from the state. "The name is really all there is," he said, handing out a business card that identifies him as company president.

He has, however, coupled the name of that company with the physical remnants of another: the steam efforts of Bill Lear, developer of the Lear jet, who got into steam research in the 1970s. Lear spent a lot of his own and US money before giving up on a steam-powered bus.

Crank got Lear's equipment for just \$500 – providing he would haul it away.

Crank used an experimental boiler from Lear to build a steam-powered race car that went on to beat the steam car land speed record of a little over 204 kph, set in 1906 by a Stanley. The car designed by Crank hit 234 kph in 1985.

WHILE there's no apparent groundswell to push his dream into production, Crank has his admirers. He "not only knows where steam automotive technology has gone, he knows where it should be going," wrote *Boston Globe* automotive writer John White.

With automotive giants searching for alternatives to traditional engines, Crank thinks it's time to give steam another chance.

Toyota Motor Corp. developed a gas-electric hybrid called the Prius, which is powered by electricity at slow speeds and switches to gasoline at higher speeds. Other major automakers say they're heading in the same direction.

Buses and trucks might be a good bet for steam, said Crank, noting that steam trucks were operating in England as late as the 1950s.

Crank said he has no long-term plans for a commercial steam venture, and he is well aware of the steam engine's drawbacks. Winter, for one thing.

"They freeze, pure and simple," he said. That would just about make it impossible to park a steam car overnight on an icy street.

However, future research might even solve that problem, he said. His dream is to assemble a crew, find \$5 million in backing and build a steam car to match gas high-performance cars.

Looking ahead, he's also looking back. In 1925 the Doble steam car was the master of the road, he said, unbeatable in acceleration and top speed. "Nothing produced in America or Europe could hope to keep up with one." (AP)

Internet may leave phone companies hanging

By NEIL WINTON

LONDON – The explosive growth of the Internet poses a life-or-death challenge to telephone companies, according to a report published recently by the Analysys consultancy in Cambridge. The Internet, said the analysts, threatens phone companies that fail to meet the demands of the new technology – but telecommunications firms that embrace the Internet challenge will thrive.

According to Margaret Hopkins, chief consultant at Analysys and one of the report's authors, companies like Telecom Finland, and WorldCom Inc. are front-runners in this race. But telecoms only recently freed from the shackles of state ownership are likely to be at the back of the pack.

The Internet is set to shake up the business world because the electronic commerce it generates melts traditional boundaries. Supermarkets can offer banking services, banks can sell life insurance, and companies like software giant Microsoft Corp find themselves involved with companies offering products as disparate as news, entertainment and shopping.

Analysys said that at the end of 1997, more than 60 million peo-



Traditional telephony undermined: Imaginative companies are already using the Internet to sell long-distance calls for the price of a local call. (Hiroshi Goshima)

ple around the world and nearly 20 million computers were linked over the Internet; the figure is growing at about 50 per-

cent a year. "The Internet creates chaos because it opens the door to new ways of doing things. When the

dust settles, lasting competitive advantage will lie with the companies that have managed to find a new way of doing business," the report said.

"Telecommunications companies must fundamentally reinvent themselves if they are to exploit the huge commercial potential of the Internet," Analysys said.

"Operators need to abandon old prejudices as well as learn new skills, and drag themselves out of the dark ages of the public switched telephone network and into the Internet age," she added.

INTERNET use threatens to transform traditional telephony as voice traffic is overwhelmed by data transmission. Imaginative new companies are already using the Internet to sell long-distance calls for the price of a local call, undermining traditional fat profit margins.

"By 2003, over 25 percent of international call minutes are forecast to be carried over the Internet, by which time the IP (Internet provider) telephony market will be worth at least \$7 billion. No doubt this explains why we are starting to see AT&T, Deutsche Telekom, GTE and MCI entering the IP telephony market," Hopkins said. High-capacity cable networks

are bringing increased voice, data and video competition. Technical developments threaten competition from electric utilities, which reckon they can transmit data over power lines and deliver services via the home electric power plug.

Teledecis, the \$9 billion "Internet-in-the-Sky" project of Microsoft and telecommunication pioneer Craig McCaw, plans to launch a network of 288 low-earth-orbit satellites in 2002. Other groups like Motorola Inc.'s-led Iridium have similar plans.

Which companies will best handle intensifying competition? "Telecom Finland has already coped with this. There's real competition there. Worldcom and recently-acquired MCI are in a very advantageous position, basing their whole strategy on the view that the Internet will be an important element of the future landscape of global telecoms."

Could satellite networks snatch a big market share? "Yes, that's exactly what they are aiming to do – provide competition to the local loop for low and medium speed digital access. The big telecoms need competition to force them to raise standards, and Teledecis may be the spirit that drives them to it," Hopkins said. (Reuters)

Fishing for computer programmers



By Judy Siegel-itzkovich

THE shortage of highly trained computer programmers is so severe that if they don't come here, the Jewish Agency is going out to "fish" for them.

A joint delegation from the agency and the Kedem technological college left recently for Ukraine, where it hopes to interview top-quality Jewish programmers and bring them here as immigrants.

The delegation, which will stay in Kiev and Odessa, will try to locate professionals suited for Kedem's special training program: the courses will combine computer studies along with a Hebrew *ulpan*. Immediately after completing the courses the graduates will be hired by local companies to prepare computer systems for the year 2000, when four-digit changes threaten to cause havoc with existing programs.

The joint mission to Ukraine follows a previous one to the CIS. Those "harvested" from that effort are already working as pro-

grammers in some of the country's leading companies and organizations.

Kedem, a veteran computer school, has produced thousands of graduates. In addition to teaching programming languages it retains academics for programming and helps its graduates find work in their field.

DIAL *613 FOR MITZVOT Cellcom has launched a unique service for its religious subscribers: Dial *613 (the number of commandments mentioned in the Torah) and hear the times Shabbat and holidays begin and end, as well as information about sunrise and sunset and the daily portion of Talmud to be studied.

The information automatically updates itself every evening, but is not available on Shabbat or Jewish holidays, on which use of the phone is forbidden. The cost is the same as the air time Cellcom charges for other services, such as getting messages from one's digital message center.

According to deputy president for marketing Oren Most, the majority of cellular phone subscribers who are religious Jews have Cellcom phones; only a minority have Telephones.

LADINO ON WEB

The first Internet site for speakers of Ladino in Israel has been opened by a voluntary organization called Sfarad. Moshe Shaul,

who was responsible for setting up the site, said it contains articles, poems and folk tales in the Judeo-Spanish language, as well as information about all the organizations in Israel and abroad that work to promote Ladino.

But soon it won't be the only site: According to Shaul another Ladino site will be launched into cyberspace by the National Authority for Ladino Culture, headed by Yitzhak Navon, Israel's fifth president. Navon estimates that there are 250,000 Ladino speakers around the country.

The Sfarad site can be found at www.trendline.co.il/judeospa/.

SCIENCE FOUNDATION BONANZA

Israel's National Science Foundation, currently marking its 25th anniversary, will this year distribute a record NIS 130 million to finance basic research projects.

Prof. Jacob Ziv, chairman of the foundation and president of the Israel Academy of Sciences, says this figure is quite an accomplishment, seeing that in its first year it had a budget of only NIS 1.5 million (in 1973 terms).

The foundation increases its grants by about 13 percent each year, a fact that makes it the central body for financing of the country's basic scientific research. About 45% of the money goes to the exact sciences and technology, an equal amount of medicine and

the life sciences and the rest to the social sciences and humanities.

During the past year, said Ziv, 300 teams received new grants for buying new equipment (including a microscope that functions at very low temperatures) and conducting their research, while 400 others received continuing grants for the second or third years.

The grants range from NIS 70,000 for the social sciences and humanities to NIS 150,000 for the biological sciences. About one in three applicants wins a grant after an international judging system selects the winners.

CYBERSEX POLL

A California sex researcher has carried out what is reputedly the first survey on the subject of cybersex – one of the "dirty secrets" behind the phenomenal growth of the Internet.

Al Cooper, clinical director of the San Jose Marital and Sexuality Center and an adviser on sex therapy at Stanford University, posted questions on the MSNBC Web site (www.msnbc.com) asking people 47 questions about their "on-line sexual behavior" – what they look at, whom they talk to, and what they get out of it.

"If you want a recipe on how to bake a cake, you can ask your mother or your next door neighbor," Cooper told Reuters. "But if you want some tricks about sex, there really aren't a lot of good

places to get information easily."

Cooper and other researchers say sex is already the most searched-for topic on the Internet, and the quest for it is driving the Net's technological advances.

"It is a big phenomenon but the professional community has been a little slow in taking it seriously," said Cooper. "The Internet is revolutionizing the way we think about sexuality. It is dramatically changing the way we interact."

Aside from disclosing their age, vocation and sexual orientation, the survey asks respondents to be honest about how much time they spend on on-line sex, what kind of thrills they go for most, and how they describe themselves to "partners" in a medium notorious for role-playing.

Other questions that could be asked in future are whether voyeurism in cyberspace constitutes infidelity, and whether conversing with someone electronically before actually meeting him or her might lead to better long-term relationships.

Cooper said he hopes to get at least 1,000 "usable" answers through the cybersex poll, and will post the results on the MSNBC site after they have been analyzed.

Other experts, however, doubt the survey's usefulness as a research tool, since large numbers of people routinely lie online, or even invent completely false Internet personas.

Flight simulator inspires new medical tool

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

No one wants to be a young doctor's first patient — or even his 50th — but novices in medicine and medical technology have to start somewhere on their path to a distinguished career.

A local company that has developed what it claims is the world's first ultrasound-scan simulator can prevent medical professionals from making errors on patients forced to serve as "guinea pigs."

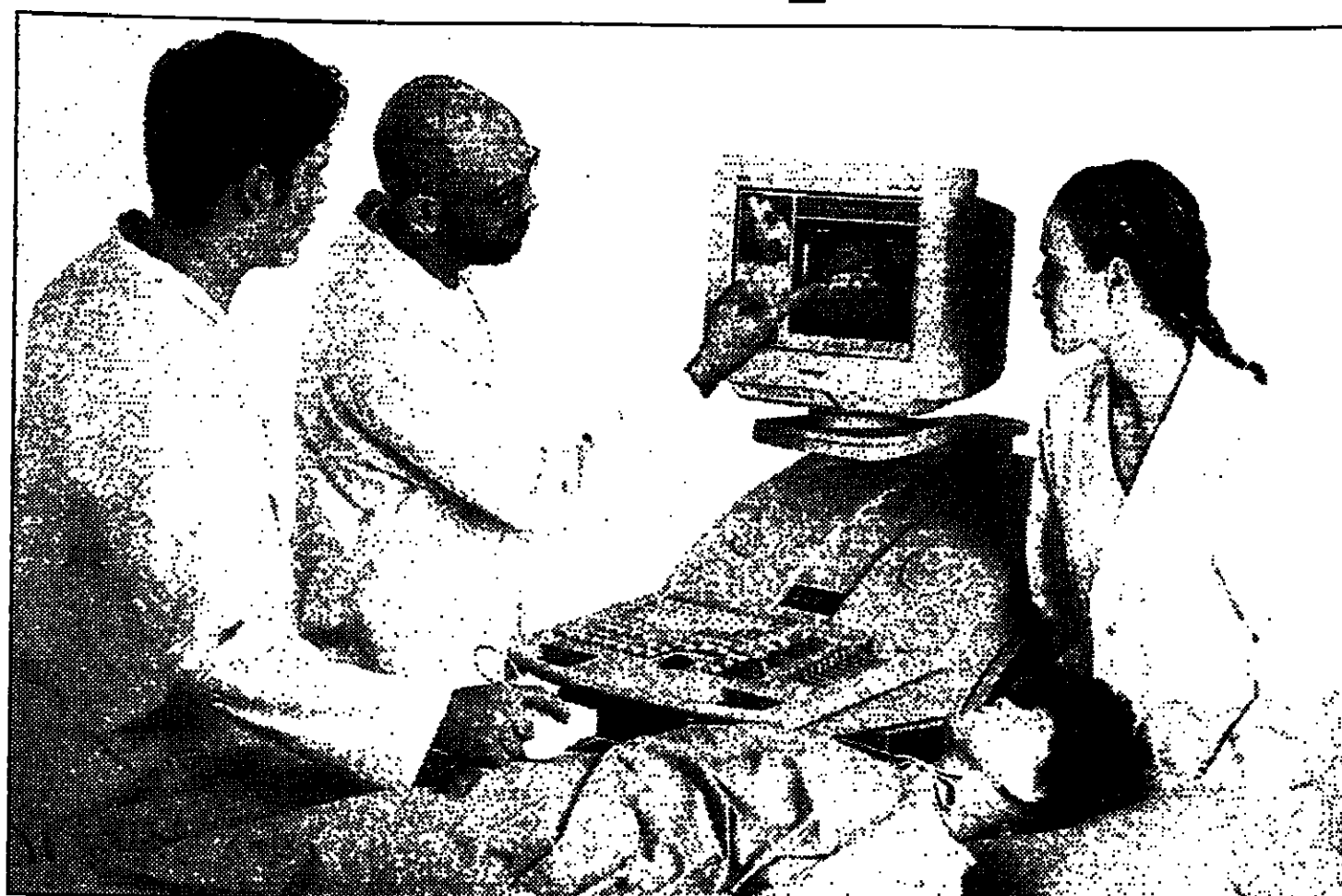
The technology can not only be used for the pre-clinical education of doctors and ultrasound technicians, it can also be utilized for uniform, objective evaluations of professionals' skills, providing them with advanced learning and specialized training.

The innovation, another example of military hardware being successfully adapted for civilian purposes, has been produced by MedSim (Advanced Medical Simulation), a company based in Kfar Sava and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

It was founded in 1993 by three former air force pilots who adapted their experience in developing flight simulators and teamed up with two American physicians, Drs. Ronnie Tepper and Gary Meller.

"In the air force we understood the importance of simulation for training pilots in what to do if a plane is on fire or collides," says MedSim CEO Nimrod Goor. "Obviously, pilots can't practice such situations on an actual plane. The same principle is true regarding practicing on patients."

Ultrasound, which is cheaper than any other type of imaging technology except a simple X-ray, has become extremely popular for diagnosing many medical conditions.



Instead of practicing on patients, novice doctors and medical technicians can build experience by operating UltraSim — on a mannequin.

Not only does it not emit radioactivity, it is also quick, painless and non-invasive.

Although best known for its use in looking at fetuses during various stages of pregnancy, ultrasound scans are highly effective in diagnosing diseases.

The simulator, called UltraSim, looks like a real ultrasound

machine, with its computer monitors, buttons and a transducer that slides across the patient's body.

But instead of a human, the system incorporates a mannequin — male or female, or a model with the characteristics of both sexes.

The hand-held transducer is correlated precisely in relation to the

mannequin, and users can choose from among a variety of training modules that represent various anatomical areas in both healthy and diseased patients.

Goor notes that the company took data from many actual patients at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in

Philadelphia and the University of Michigan's Children's Hospital.

The \$45,000 patented system (the cost of a mid-range ultrasound scanner without a simulator) is used with half-a-dozen CD-ROM disks that are installed into the computer, each comprising its own module to be studied or tested.

The female mannequin can even

undergo a vaginal ultrasound, while the male can be examined rectally, which is the way prostate problems are diagnosed.

The obstetrics module displays normal pregnancies at various stages, as well as a five-week pregnancy with quadruplets, a 12-week pregnancy with triplets and an abnormal gestational sac, a 14-week normal pregnancy with fibroids in the uterus, and many other possible conditions.

The gynecology module presents a normal female pelvis, the location of an intra-uterine device, fibroids, ovarian cysts and other conditions.

One of the abdominal modules demonstrates liver cancer, thrombosis of the portal vein, polyps in the gallbladder, gall stones, pancreatic cancer, enlarged spleen and ovarian cancer, among other things; the other shows gallstones, kidney cysts, an enlarged prostate gland, urinary bladder cancer, liver hemangiomas and a variety of normal organs. There are also cardiology and peripheral-vascular modules.

GOOR, a 40-year-old former F-16 fighter pilot who flew missions in the Lebanon War, notes that even though ultrasound machines release sound waves rather than radioactive rays, the US Food and Drug Administration has limited the number of scans a pregnant woman can undergo because unnecessary scans could interfere with the fetus.

This makes the simulator very necessary, since a mannequin won't get upset if a technician or doctor has to repeat the exam several times to get it right.

In recent years, the Health Ministry has set down stricter regulations regarding who may carry out ultrasound scans: instead of a sonographic technician doing it

alone the scan must now be performed by a physician or trained technician, and the result signed by a physician.

In the US rules have been tightened as well. In addition, companies supplying doctors with malpractice insurance coverage insist that clients who conduct ultrasound scans prove their competence.

The system has been customized for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers, which conducts licensing exams for professionals in the field and will incorporate the UltraSim into its practical exam.

MedSim, a start-up company with 35 staffers, began marketing UltraSim last year and has already exported more than \$2.2 million worth of the machines.

Focusing mainly on the US, it has also sold simulators to three universities in London (among them the prestigious Kings College), and to others in France, Hong Kong, Japan and Austria. Requests have been received even from Abu Dhabi and Kuwait.

So far none of the devices has been used clinically here, but a training center is opening up at Meir Hospital, not far from the company's world headquarters.

The investors include Arison Investments, Yozma (the Ofer Brothers), Yair Hamburger and various venture capital funds like Medica.

Goor notes that the simulator has many other potential applications.

These include training professionals to guide probes in the body, carry out colonoscopies, take amniotic fluid samples and perform cryosurgery on prostates.

"So we're working on developing an ultrasound simulator for these, guidance procedures as well," says Goor.

Sugar — without calories?

By MAGGIE FOX

WASHINGTON — Sucralose, a new calorie-free sweetener 600 times sweeter than sugar, has won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration.

Derived from the natural sugar sucrose, it can be used in baked goods, drinks, jams and processed foods. The white crystalline substance can also be used as a table-sugar substitute.

Sucralose is designed to pass through the body without being digested — somewhat like Procter & Gamble's olestra product Oleo.

"Sucralose, which is made from sugar, actually tastes like sugar," says Neil Polo, general manager of the New Jersey-based McNeil Specialty Products, which will be selling the product. "But unlike sugar, sucralose has no calories, and doesn't promote tooth decay."

Made by British sweeteners group Tate and Lyle and licensed to McNeil, a unit of Johnson & Johnson, for distribution in the US, sucralose is already sold in Canada and Australia, and approved in 29 countries.

Dr. Brian Coussin, head of the Food Service Division of Israel's Health Ministry, says "nobody has yet asked us for approval to import it, but I expect this will occur very soon."

"We have been following sucralose for some time, and now that the FDA has approved it, we see no reason why we shouldn't do so as well."

"We see no problems with it, and it isn't suspected of being a carcinogen. But we don't think sucralose will replace all other sweeteners."



Sinful-looking desserts like this could become dieters' fare.

"Globally, millions of consumers have been using sucralose since 1991 in reduced-calorie and reduced-sugar products such as soft drinks, shelf-stable fruit drinks, jams, processed fruit products, yogurt and baked goods," McNeil says.

The sugar derivative will compete with aspartame, which

breaks down when heated and cannot be used in baking or food processing, and saccharine, which tastes unpleasant to some users and has been linked to a risk of bladder cancer in rats. There is also acesulfame-K, generally used blended with other sweeteners.

In determining the safety of

sucralose, the FDA said it reviewed data from more than 100 human and animal studies.

"Many of the studies were designed to identify possible toxic effects including carcinogenic, reproductive and neurological effects. No such effects were found, and FDA's approval is based on its finding that sucralose is safe for human consumption."

"With this one we don't see any red flags," notes Dr. George Pauli, director of the division of product policy at the FDA. "I guess it's not that often we find a new sweetener to be safe."

Pauli said the agency spent more than a decade deciding whether to approve sucralose.

"One thing that came up about seven years ago: In one of the pivotal studies with rats, the animals fed sucralose didn't gain weight like those in the control group. They didn't eat as much either." This was probably because the product was so sweet and the laboratory rats were fed huge amounts; but the FDA made the company go back and do more tests, anyway.

Sucralose is made through a patented process. "It starts with table sugar, but goes through a five-step process that uses chlorine and replaces some of the atoms that normally would be present in sugar with chlorine atoms," according to Pauli.

"The result is an exceptionally stable sweetener that keeps sugar's taste without sugar's calories," says McNeil.

"After consumption it passes through the body without being metabolized or broken down."

(Reuters)

Israeli hand-surgery method cited as 'best of 400'

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Dr. Maurice Rouso, a French-born expert in hand surgery who heads a day clinic at Jerusalem's Misgav Ladach Hospital, has received recognition from the editorial board of *Grabb's Encyclopedia of Flaps: Upper Extremities*. Its second edition, just published by Lippincott-Raven, carries an article about the technique.

Rouso, formerly director of the plastic surgery department at Beersheva's Soroka Hospital and a hand surgeon at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Karem, notes that there are 400 different techniques for preventing permanent damage to the hand when the skin contracts from scarring due to severe burns.

He is pleased that his own technique — which involves wearing polyurethane splints for months to stretch the skin and surgical reconstruction of the hand's skin by sewing in a zigzag of triangular flaps of healthy tissue containing blood vessels and nerves from other parts of the body — was declared the most effective.

There are hundreds of cases of seriously burnt hands in Israel each year, says Rouso, noting that in many cases the scarring not only disfigures the hands but prevents the fingers and palms from functioning normally.

In a conflagration, victims instinctively put their hands up to protect their faces and the backs of their hands get burned. In other cases, often involving children, a hot piece of metal is unintentionally grabbed, causing damage to the palm and insides of the fingers.

Rouso developed his complex "five-flap technique" over a period of five years by using foam-and-wood models of hands to design the splints and flaps, especially those in the webs between the fingers.

Today his is the method of choice in many hospitals around the world, and Rouso is frequently invited to lecture about it.

Other techniques, some of which involve cutting through the scarred tissue, often result in crippled fingers and the need for repeated surgery, Rouso says.

SPANKING NEW GUIDELINES

The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued guidelines that should gladden the heart of every child.

Spanking, the doctors declare, is no more effective than other methods of discipline, and makes children become more physically aggressive in their teen years and as adults.

US studies have shown that 90 percent of American parents spank their children, and that corporal punishment occurs weekly in a quarter of all two-parent, middle-class families.

A 1996 study found that more than half of 13- and 14-year-olds were being hit an average of eight times per year.

The AAP writes in the journal *Pediatrics* that children who have been spanked are more likely to have bad marriages as adults and to accept the idea of hitting a spouse.

The more children are spanked, the more likely they are to spank their own children.

"At best spanking is only effective when used in selective, infrequent situations," the academy says. Spanking teaches children that aggressive behavior is a solution to conflict, particularly if it's done when a parent is angry.

"It's giving them a message that when they are angry a way to resolve that anger is physical, which is probably not a good example to set for them," says Dr. Mark Wolraich, a Nashville pediatrician who



Dr. Rouso: winning technique (Bethsabée Susann)

chaired the committee. Spanking becomes less effective with repeated use, and makes discipline substantially more difficult when physical punishment is no longer an option, such as with teenagers.

The academy says discipline should be based on positive reinforcement, a supportive and loving parent-child relationship and non-violent means of punishment, such as taking away a child's privileges or, with younger children, suspending parental attention.

The pediatricians' organization, which has 53,000 members, says that children should never be hit with an object, struck on parts of the body other than the buttocks or extremities, or struck with such intensity that marks remain for more than a few minutes.

The AAP also finds it "unacceptable" to pull a child's hair, jerk a child by the arm, shake him, or punish in anger with intent to cause pain.

PIG HEARTS FOR TRANSPLANT?

Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer will start buying genetically engineered pigs to supply hearts for transplants if the transplant of a pig heart into a human being in England, expected later this year, is successful.

Dr. Ya'acov Lavie, head of Tel Hashomer hospital's heart transplant department, says that the rabbinical arbiters have voiced support for such a possibility, as it would save lives, provided no cruelty to animals is involved. Only eating pig meat is forbidden, he notes.

Pig hearts are very similar to human ones, and processed pig valves from them have successfully been transplanted into humans here and abroad for the past 15 years, Lavie says.

The pigs being raised in England are, as fetuses, injected with human chromosomes.

FRENCH HOSPITAL CENTENARY

Nazareth's French Hospital recently launched its 100th anniversary celebrations. They were attended by Mayor Ramez Jeraisi, the French ambassador, and representatives of both the Health Ministry and the Palestinian Authority.

The hospital was founded in 1898 by nuns of the St. Vincent de Paul order.

It began with 17 beds in a rented house, and the first wing of the current building was constructed in 1907. The hospital receives financial support from the French government, hence its name.

'Therapeutic touch' debunked — by a nine-year-old

By BRENDA C. COLEMAN

CHICAGO — A nine-year-old girl who "debunked" a widespread complementary medicine technique and had her study published in a distinguished medical journal has aroused the ire of some of the 100,000 people around the world who practice it.

Emily Rosa conducted her study on "therapeutic touch" — in which a healer supposedly manipulates a patient's energy field — and found it "nonsense."

The fourth grader from Loveland, Colorado, the daughter of a registered nurse and an inventor, found that 21 experienced practitioners were unable to detect the field they supposedly manipulate to heal.

Her study was published in a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, drawing immediate fire from supporters of the practice, who say it is respected worldwide.

Therapeutic touch has been used to treat problems ranging from

burns to cancer.

The technique is practiced in at least 80 North American hospitals and is taught in more than 100 colleges and universities in 75 countries, according to the study, which Emily wrote with help from her parents and a Pennsylvania doctor who works to uncover quackery.

Those who practice the technique say an energy field emanates from every person and is detectable above the skin through a tingling sensation or a feeling of hot or cold.

The healer moves his or her hands over the patient's body to modify the field.

Touching the patient isn't necessary. More than 100,000 people worldwide have been taught the technique, including at least 43,000 health-care professionals, the study said.

EMILY set up a cardboard screen through which practitioners put their hands. With their sight blocked, she asked them to identify

which of their hands was near one of hers.

The 21 practitioners chose the correct hand 44 percent of the time — slightly less than the 50 percent chance they would have had of choosing the correct hand by guessing, the authors said.

"To our knowledge no other objective, quantitative study involving more than a few therapeutic touch practitioners has been published, and no well-designed study demonstrates any health benefit from therapeutic touch," the study concluded.

"These facts, together with our experimental findings, suggest that therapeutic touch claims are groundless, and that further use of therapeutic touch by health professionals is unjustified."

Emily's mother, Linda Rosa, acknowledged that she is a long-time skeptic of the practice. Emily said she conducted her study for a school science fair two years ago because she was a bit skeptical herself, and "just wanted to see if they could feel the human energy field."

There were no winners in the fair. Emily got a blue ribbon like everyone else.

The research was never intended to be published, Rosa said, but word spread and the Public Broadcasting System show *Scientific American Frontiers* featured Emily's tests on November 19.

It was Dr. Stephen Barrett of Quackwatch Inc., based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, who suggested submitting the findings to the prestigious medical journal.

Dolores Krieger, professor emerita of nursing science at New York University and co-founder of therapeutic touch in 1972, scoffed at Emily's findings and said she was "astounded" JAMA published the study.

"It's poor in terms of design and methodology," she said. She said the designer of the study — Emily — should not have been the one to conduct it, adding that the 21 subjects were too few and unrepresentative. (AP)

Jazz grab homecourt advantage

PHOENIX (AP) — The Utah Jazz clinched homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs with a 102-99 victory Friday night that snapped the Suns' 10-game winning streak.

Karl Malone scored 29 points and grabbed nine rebounds, Byron Russell matched his season-high with 21 points off the bench and made three free throws in the final minute to help secure the victory.

Utah and Chicago can both finish with 62-20 records if the Jazz lose today and the Bulls won last night, but Utah has the tiebreaker edge from winning the season series 2-0.

Bulls 87, 76ers 80
Amid another sea of flashbulbs in what may have been his last regular-season road game, Michael Jordan scored 24 points as Chicago snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Bulls almost let a 13-point lead slip away, but Jordan scored his only two points of the fourth quarter from the foul line with 14 seconds left to end all doubt.

Hawks 121, Hornets 104
Host Atlanta had its highest-scoring game of the season and remained alive for homecourt advantage in the first round of the playoffs by completing a sweep of the four-game season series against Charlotte.

Wizards 97, Heat 89

Visiting Washington stayed alive in the playoff race for at least another day as Chris Whitney sank four free throws in the final 92 seconds to help save off a Miami rally.

Combined with New Jersey's loss at Orlando, it kept alive the Wizards' hopes of squeezing into the postseason. They still had to defeat the Boston Celtics last night and hope two things happen today — the Nets lose at home to Detroit and Charlotte wins at home against Orlando.

Magic 121, Nets 109
Host Orlando handed New Jersey its third straight loss as the Nets blew another chance to clinch a postseason berth.

Pistons 108, Bucks 102
Grant Hill had 31 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists to lead Detroit to a home win.

Pacers 107, Raptors 98
Dale Davis had 20 points and reserve Jalen Rose 19 as host Indiana won its seventh straight.

Timberwolves 102, Rockets 95
Minnesota solidified the order of the final two playoff spots in the Western Conference, clinching seventh place with a home victory.

Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Wolves in their final regular-season home game.

Celtics 78, Cavaliers 71

Rick Pitino missed the game and Antoine Walker and Ron Mercer, kept missing shots, but Boston still beat Cleveland.

Pitino, suffering from a stomach ailment, wasn't on the sidelines for the first time since becoming coach last May. His assistant, Jim O'Brien, took over.

Lakers 124, Mavericks 95
Shaquille O'Neal scored 43 points as host Los Angeles

earned its 60th victory and moved into a tie with the Mavericks for first place in the Pacific Division.

Nuggets 109, Blazers 101
Anthony Goldwire scored a career-high 22 points on 8-of-8 shooting as Denver won its home finale.

Spurs 89, SuperSonics 87
Visiting San Antonio knocked the SuperSonics into a tie for the Pacific Division lead.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-New York	55	24	.69	—
x-New Jersey	43	38	.53	12
New York	42	39	.519	13
Orlando	41	40	.506	14
Washington	41	40	.506	14
Boston	36	45	.444	19
Philadelphia	30	51	.370	25

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Chicago	61	20	.753	—
x-Indiana	58	23	.716	3
y-Charlotte	50	31	.617	11
y-Atlanta	49	32	.605	12
y-Cleveland	46	35	.568	15
Detroit	37	44	.457	24
Milwaukee	36	45	.444	25
Toronto	16	65	.198	45

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	48	21	.692	—
y-San Antonio	44	27	.618	4
y-Houston	41	40	.506	7
Dallas	20	62	.244	42
Vancouver	18	62	.225	43
Denver	11	70	.136	51

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	48	21	.692	—
y-San Antonio	44	27	.618	4
y-Houston	41	40	.506	7
Dallas	20	62	.244	42
Vancouver	18	62	.225	43
Denver	11	70	.136	51

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	48	21	.692	—
y-San Antonio	44	27	.618	4
y-Houston	41	40	.506	7
Dallas	20	62	.244	42
Vancouver	18	62	.225	43
Denver	11	70	.136	51

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	48	21	.692	—
y-San Antonio	44	27	.618	4
y-Houston	41	40	.506	7
Dallas	20	62	.244	42
Vancouver	18	62	.225	43
Denver	11	70	.136	51

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	48	21	.692	—
y-San Antonio	44	27	.618	4
y-Houston	41	40	.506	7
Dallas	20	62	.244	42
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x-Chicago	61	20	.753	—
x-Indiana	58	23	.716	3
y-Charlotte	50	31	.617	11
y-Atlanta	49	32	.605	12
y-Cleveland	46	35	.568	15
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GO FOR BROKE — Bulls' Dennis Rodman dives for the ball after stripping it from 76ers' Aaron McKie in first-quarter action. Chicago won 87-80.

Flames snap 6-game losing streak

VANCOUVER (AP) — The Flames snapped their six-game losing streak with a 4-2 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Friday's only scheduled game.

Andrew Cassels led the way with two goals, while Marty McInnis put the Flames up for good, scoring a short-handed goal that broke a 1-1 tie with 2:05 left in the second period.

The highlight of the game, featuring two teams out of playoff contention, was Vancouver's Pavel Bure who opened the scoring with his 50th goal of the season.

By reaching the 50-goal plateau, Bure opened a clause going into the final year of his five-year contract that will guarantee him an average salary of the top three paid forwards in the NHL.

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	48	22	11	107	224	164
x-Philadelphia	42	27	11	95	240	187
x-Washington	38	30	12	88	214	197
N.Y. Islanders	29	41	11	69	210	224
N.Y. Rangers	24	39	18	66	195	230
Florida	24	43	14	62	201	254
Tampa Bay	17	55	9	43	149	267

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-Pittsburgh	39	24	18	96	223	186
x-Boston	38	29	13	89	217	188
x-Buffalo	28	37	15	71	203	229
x-Philadelphia	37	32	10	84	232	204
x-Atlanta	33	33	15	81	191	197
Carolina	33	39	8	74	196	213

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	48	22	11	107	224	164
x-Detroit	44	22	15	103	247	182
x-St. Louis	43	29	8	94	246	197
x-Phoenix	35	34	12	82	230	222
Chicago	30	38	13	73	191	196
Toronto	29	42	9	67	189	232

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Columbus	38	26	17	93	227	202
x-Los Angeles	34	32	11	87	224	221
x-San Jose	33	33	14	80	214	229
x-Vancouver	32	34	15	79	214	229
Calgary	25	40	15	67	216	248
Vancouver	25	40	14	64	223	271

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DWELLINGS



CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

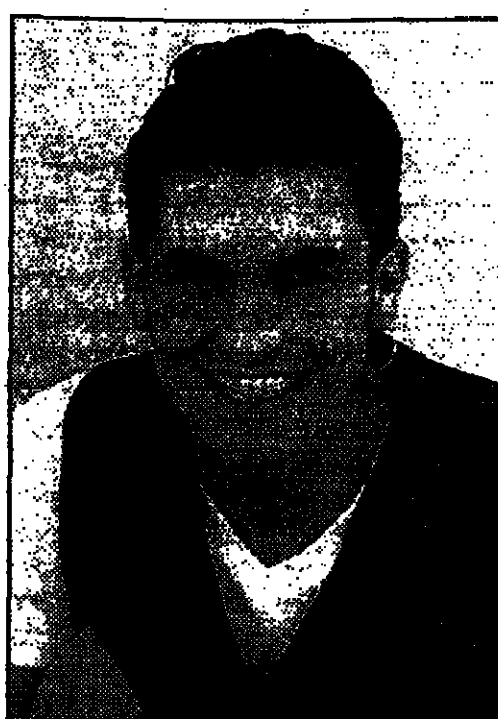
The final program of the Solomon's Scales series of concerts for the entire family, hosted by Shlomo Gronich, takes place today (5) at the Jerusalem Music Center with singers Tamuz Shiran, Bracha Koi, Shira Green, Yaniv D'or, Asaf Levi and Yevgeny Cherniak singing selections by Rossini, Gounod, Schubert, Donizetti, Mozart and Oded Zehavi.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** FLUBBER — In this remake of Disney's 1961 hit *The Absent-Minded Professor*, Robin Williams plays a soft-spoken mad scientist who creates a vat of fantastical bright green goo with the power to send objects flying through space at phenomenal speeds. The movie functions as a fine diversion for little kids. It's like an extended toy commercial, with dozens of variations on the same schtick repeated, and the title "character" — who looks when solid something like a mischievous blob of animate lime jello — able to transmogrify instantaneously and assume any number of funny forms. Whether or not *Flubber* works as a movie in a larger sense is another matter altogether and one that is probably beside the point: kids respond to all that giddy motion and to the rather irresistible idea that this one little ball of fluorescent gunk contains enough zooming energy to wreak complete havoc on its surroundings. (General audiences)

**** WAG THE DOG — It's less than two weeks before the presidential election and the Big He himself has been accused by an underage "firefly girl" of sexual harassment. Ace spin doctor Conrad Brean (Robert DeNiro) is called in by the White House to do something, and fast. So he jets to LA and hires a suttaned



Yaniv D'or sings at the final performance of the Solomon's Scales series of concerts.

and successful Hollywood producer, played with hilarious brio by Dustin Hoffman, to help the Powers that Be distract the public by manufacturing a war against Albania — a war, that is, that will never take place, except where it really counts, on the TV screens of America's voters. Director Barry Levinson's smart-bomb of a political satire manages to be at once extremely funny and deeply disturbing in its portrayal of Washington as the greatest showbiz town on earth. The movie is slight, in its cynical way, but it stings. David Mamet and Hilary Henkin wrote the nimble script. With Anne Heche and Willie Nelson. (Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:32 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Dog Channel
8:45 Eric's World
10:10 Fairy Tale Theater
11:00 Glad Rags
11:05 South by Southeast
11:50 Muck
12:15 Muck in an Old Witch
12:45 Dog Channel
14:30 Running the Juggler
15:00 Escape from Jupiter

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15:00 Elio and Lay and Zep
15:35 X Men
16:00 Byker Grove
16:30 Non-Stop Tappi
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16:30 Non-Stop Tappi
16:50 A New Evening
17:20 The Prince and the Pauper
18:00 Elio and Lay
18:10 Time for a Language
18:15 News in English

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CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:32 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Dog Channel
8:45 Eric's World
10:10 Fairy Tale Theater
11:00 Glad Rags
11:05 South by Southeast
11:50 Muck
12:15 Muck in an Old Witch
12:45 Dog Channel
14:30 Running the Juggler
15:00 Escape from Jupiter

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15:00

12 - Francesco Balzano (Derby County).
11 - Darren Huckerby (Coventry City).
Steve McManaman (Liverpool), Paolo Di Canio (Sheffield Wednesday)